

Japanese Restaurants in the US: How authentic?

# 漫画人

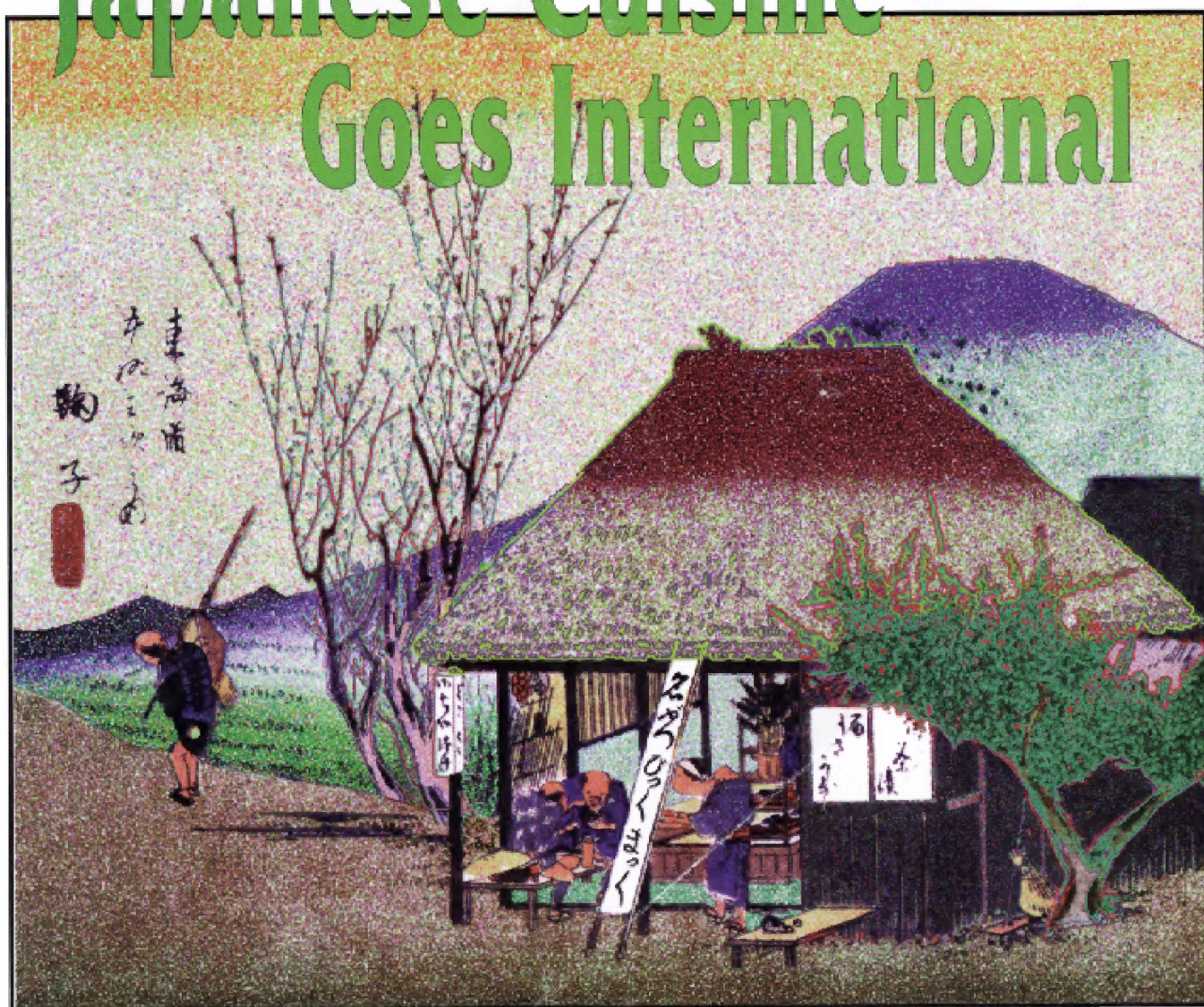
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No. 56

## Japanese Cuisine Goes International



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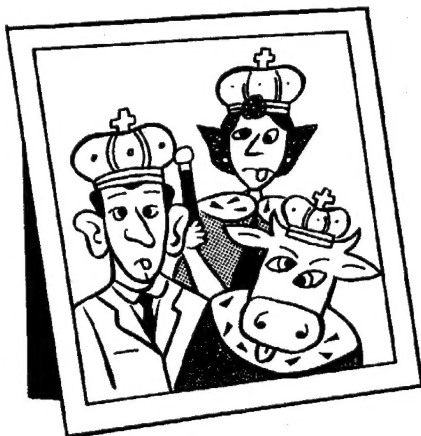
# Humorous Haiku

Poems submitted by our readers

Illustrations by Anthony Owsley

SENRYU

川柳



牛狂い

Ushi-kurui

ロイヤルファミリー

royaru famirii

恋狂い

koi-kurui

**Mad cow disease—  
the royal family has  
mad love disease.**

by A. Yasumori, Yokohama

- *kurui* is the stem of the verb *kuruu*, which can mean either “become demented/mad” or “go wrong/awry.” *Ushi-kurui* here can be considered another name for *kyōgyū-byō* (狂牛病, literally “mad cow disease”).
- *koi-kurui* is essentially from the expression *koi ni kuruu*, which most typically means “become crazy with love,” but here it’s being used more in the sense of “love gone awry.”

- *omoi* is the stem of the verb *omou* (“think”), and *tsutsu* after the stem of a verb means “while [doing the action]”; *omoi tsutsu kau* = “buy while thinking,” and *to* marks *kore saigo* (“this is the last”) as the content of the thinking.
- *takarakuji* can mean either “lottery,” or “lottery ticket.” To refer unambiguously to the latter, one can also say *takarakuji no ken* (*ken* = “ticket”).

これ最後と

Kore saigo to

思いつつ買う

omoi tsutsu kau

宝くじ

takarakuji

**This’ll be my last,  
I tell myself as I buy:  
A lottery ticket.**

by 大町小町, Ōmachi Komachi, Nagano



**One thousand heartbeats  
enhancing love energy...  
aerobic workout!**

熱き鼓動

Atsuki kodō

いや高鳴れり

iya takanareri

エアロビクス

earobikusu

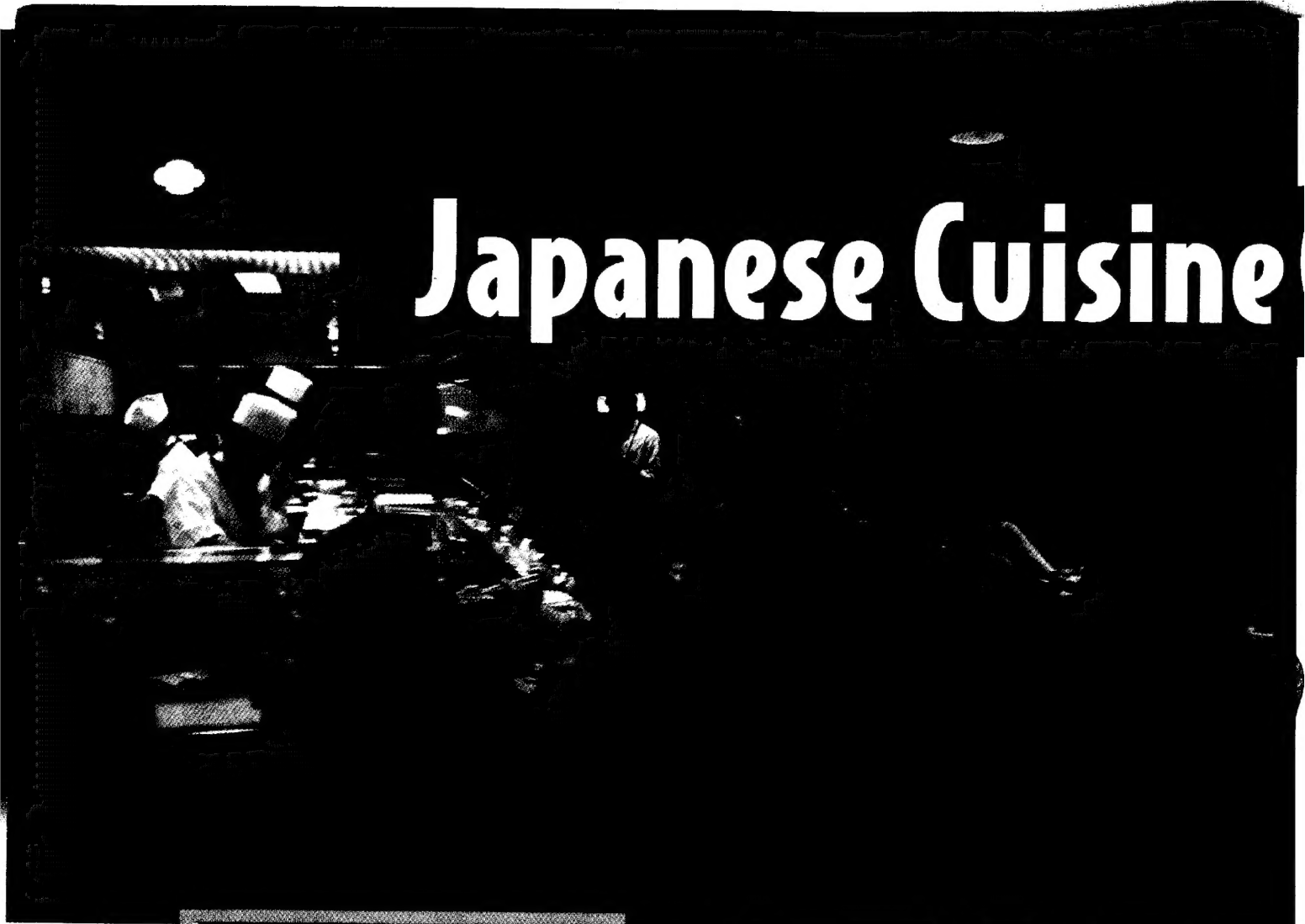
by Mimmy San, Narberth, PA

- *atsuki* is a classical form of the adjective *atsui* (“hot/heated” or in the context of love, “passionate”). Classical adjectives and verbs are often preferred in poetry, especially the traditional forms of poetry.
- *kodō* = “heartbeat.”
- *iya* is an interjection that gives exclamatory effect.
- the classical verb form *takanareri* can be equivalent to either *takanatta* (past) or *takanatte iru* (progressive), from *takanaru* (“[heart throbs/beats rapidly]”).

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# Japanese Cuisine



(above) The decor of New York's Sushi Den (Sushi 田) is Japanese, but with an American touch; the cuisine is authentic Japanese.



(left) Examples of Chef Nobu-san's "Supra-Japanese Cuisine" — cutting edge, but built around some conventional items like sea bream (*tai*) sashimi, and even down-home foods like boiled daikon.

「ノブ」の超日本料理から。手前から前菜「ティラディート・ノブ・スタイル」(たいの南米風さしみ: レモンとゆず・塩味のドレッシング、とうがらしのペースト“ロコト”乗せ、シアントロ添え)。アークティックチャー(小型サーモン)とモロヘイヤの Pasta、クレソン添え、ゆず風味くずソースになめこ。お頭付きシーバス揚げ・玉錦リゾット詰め、ダイコン煮物にゆずソース。

Photo by Abe Hiroshi

# 日本料理は世界にのれんを分ける

## Goes International

by Takashima Mitsuo

食文化がその国の文化程度を示すバロメーターだとするなら、中国やフランス、イタリアに優るとも劣らず、日本は食大国の一つとして当然名乗りを挙げることになる。ところが日本人と日本料理の世界での地位は、日本異質論に呼応して「特殊」なイメージがある。エコノミックアニマルと言われた日本人の海外進出は、日本の「美文化」をなかなか世界に伝えることはできなかった。しかしここ10年、円高の恩恵で急増した海外進出日本人に呼応して、海外日本料理のあり方が様相を変えてきたようだ。

**IF A NATION'S CUISINE IS A BAROMETER OF ITS cultural status, then Japan—no less than China, France, and Italy—should claim a place among the world's culinary superpowers. But perhaps as a result of entrenched beliefs in Japan's uniqueness, the Japanese and their cuisine are still perceived by the rest of the world as being somehow “different.” Even when the Japanese “economic animals” started making advances overseas, they found it difficult to introduce Japan's “culture of taste” to the world. Over the past ten years, however, Japanese cuisine overseas has entered a new phase as the number of Japanese moving overseas has burgeoned, thanks to the strong yen.**



アメリカ生まれ創作寿司  
巻ものの盛合わせ

An assortment of “born in the USA” rolled sushi. Other touches you won't find in Japan are a spoon with the soup (*miso shiru*), and an extra pile of wasabi to mix in your soy sauce (*shōyu*).



## アメリカ人がラーメンをすすめる日

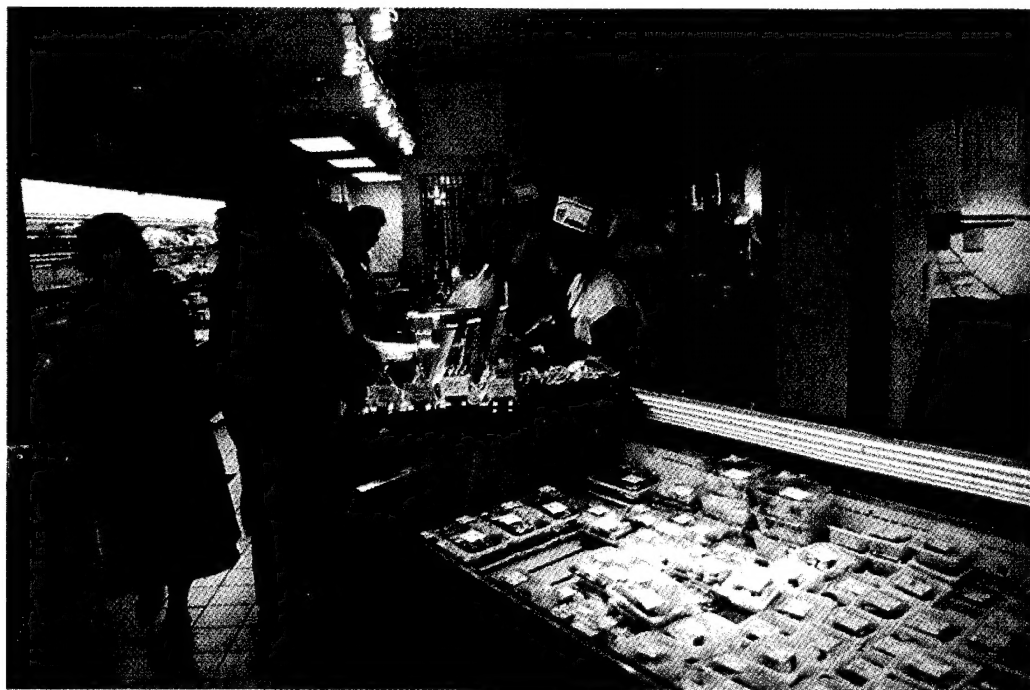
海外、特にアメリカの日本料理レストランは、80年代、ロサンゼルス・オリンピックを契機に本格的に浸透し始め、健康志向の風潮に呼応して大きな広がりを見せた。80年代後半から円高を背景に日本人の海外進出が顕著になり、ウエストコーストはもとよりニューヨークでも日本料理レストランは定着し、同時に特徴的な土着化、あるいは国際化の傾向を示している。ニューヨークを象徴的な例に、その背景と根拠を挙げてみよう。

まず第1に「メニューの専門化」。従来の海外日本レストランは異国趣味＝日本趣味を強調する内装と、寿司、すきやき、天ぷら、ヤキトリ、チキンテリヤキなど日本料理のステレオタイプ型メニュー、つまりアメリカ人の通から初心者まで対応できるオールラウンドメニューが中心だった。しかしここ10年、ニューヨークでは専門店化する傾向が顕著だ。ラーメン専門店からしゃぶしゃぶ、串揚げ・とんかつ、そば、本格寿司、家庭料理から懐石料理の日本有名ブランド店まで。内装もアメリカナイズされたデザイン志向が強く、日本と同じ食環境づくりの店舗展開が見られる。

## The Day When Americans Slurp Rāmen

Overseas, particularly in the United States, Japanese restaurants began making serious inroads around the time of the Los Angeles Olympics in the early 1980s, and then spread far and wide in conjunction with America's growing health-consciousness. Backed by a strengthening yen in the late 80s, the Japanese presence in the United States became more pronounced, and Japanese restaurants became a familiar sight not only on the West Coast but in New York as well. At the same time, Japanese restaurants have shown a tendency to become naturalized, or internationalized, in distinctive new ways. Taking New York City as a representative case, I'd like to examine the background and some of the basic characteristics of this trend.

First is the specialization of menus. In the past, Japanese restaurants had emphasized the exotic—which is to say traditional Japanese styles—in their decor and had offered menus with stereotypical Japanese dishes such as sushi, sukiyaki, tempura, yakitori [grilled skewered chicken morsels], and chicken teriyaki—all-around menus that offered something for everyone from connoisseur to novice. But in New York, the last ten years have seen a pronounced shift toward specialized restaurants—from shops serving only rāmen [noodles] to restaurants specializing variously in shabu-shabu [very thin-sliced beef with tofu and vegetables, cooked at the table in a boiling stock], deep-fried kabobs and pork cutlets, soba [traditional Japanese noodles], authentic sushi, and home-style cooking, to famous-name Japanese restaurants specializing in full-course cuisine. Decor now shows a strong tendency toward Americanization, and restaurants are designed to have the same kind of dining atmosphere as in contemporary Japan.



The Yaohan-affiliated Daikichi Sushi take-out chain has 18 branches in and around Manhattan and is expanding rapidly. It's not unusual to see Americans walking around eating roll-type sushi like hamburgers.

ヤオハン系列の「大吉寿司」Daikichi Sushiテイクアウトチェーン店はマンハッタンを中心に現在18店舗を展開し急成長中。ハンバーガー感覚で歩きながら巻き寿司をほおばるアメリカ人も珍しくなくなった。

第2に、日本料理の「アメリカ市民権確保」。ひと昔前は、ラーメンはスープが熱すぎてアメリカ人は苦手というのが定説だったが、ひとたびラーメン専門店の大繁盛ぶり（日本人客で）がマスコミで紹介されると、冒険好きのアメリカ人がどっとラーメンを食べにくるようになった。しゃぶしゃぶも、今日のように大衆店で割安にしゃぶしゃぶが食べられるとなると、アメリカ人、しかも初心者が、いきなりこうした日本食のバリエーションに挑戦している。

また日本からそのまま移入したような雑多なメニューの大衆居酒屋が「New York」誌に「アンダーグラウンド・グルメ」として紹介されると、もの珍しさでやってくるアメリカ人客も多くなった。アメリカのメディアが日本料理のパラエティを紹介する、チャレンジ精神旺盛なアメリカ人がついてく

Second, Japanese cuisine has now earned its American citizenship. Not so very long ago, conventional wisdom held that Americans didn't like ramen because the soup was too hot. But when the local media reported on specialty ramen shops and the thriving business they were doing among their Japanese clientele, adventurous Americans started coming for ramen in droves. Likewise with shabu-shabu, now that there are restaurants where anyone can go to enjoy relatively inexpensive shabu-shabu, American diners, even those who are newcomers to Japanese food, are eager to experience a different type of Japanese cuisine.

In another instance, when a Japanese working-class style pub with a typical hodge-podge menu and every appearance of having been directly transplanted from Japan was featured in *New York* magazine's "Underground Gourmet" column, it brought a stream of American customers looking to experience something novel. The American media does a story on a different type of Japanese food, and

“Japanese cuisine has now earned its American citizenship”

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る。今日の日本料理ブームの背景にはメディアサーカス的な背景もある。

もっともポピュラーな寿司も、大衆店が大量仕入れ、廉価販売方式でいいネタを安く提供し始めたら一挙にアメリカ人客が増え、日本人客はむしろ珍しくなった大型大衆店もある。テイクアウト寿司は、完全にアメリカ人ターゲットでチェーン展開している。

## 海外で自給自足を始めた日本料理

第3に、日本料理食材の現地調達が可能になった。以前は日本料理は在住日本人向け現地食材を利用した家庭料理か観光用高級レストランに2分され、本格的な日本料理の食材は日本からの輸入となり値が張った。

いまでは、米は十分食味に耐えるカリフォルニア米が豊富に安く手に入る。野菜類はウエストコーストのコリアン系農場が日本食材の高付加価値に注目して、栽培や

adventurous American diners come around to check it out. Behind the current boom in Japanese cuisine lies an element of media circus.

Most popular of all Japanese cuisine, sushi also saw a sudden increase in American customers when large, popularly oriented restaurants that could buy in volume began offering sushi made with high quality toppings at moderate prices. Today there are large, popular restaurants where Japanese customers are in the minority. Take-out sushi shops are developing into chains targeted solely at the American customer.

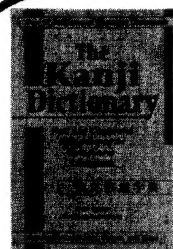
## Japanese Cuisine Becomes Self-Sufficient Overseas

The third element in this trend is that it has become easier to find local sources for ingredients used in Japanese cooking. In the past, Japanese cuisine in America could be divided into two categories: home-style cooking for resident Japanese using local ingredients, or "high-class" tourist restaurants. Ingredients for authentic Japanese cooking had to be imported from Japan and prices were very high.

Today, California rice tasty enough to please the discriminating diner is available inexpensively and in quantity. Recognizing the high added value of ingredients for Japanese food, Korean-American farmers on the West Coast have become a major force in cultivating

## Language and Love

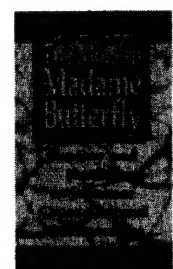
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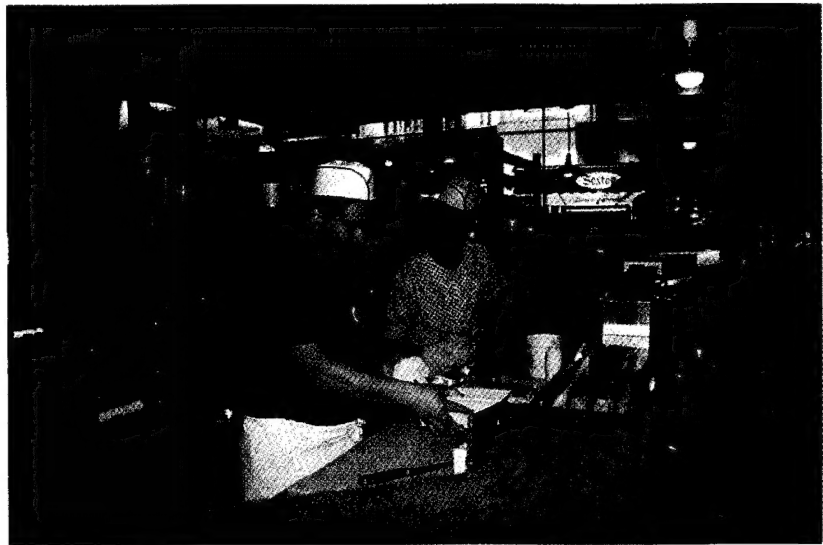
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At Uoichiba East on East 38th Street, this South American sushi chef is in charge of roll-type sushi.

「魚市場イースト」 East 38th St. 店で、寿司カウンターの中南米係板前さん（巻もの担当）



市場流通に大きな勢力となり価格を下げている。魚は  
大西洋で獲れる魚類の応用で不自由はない。ふぐの調理  
も最近FDAから許可が下りた。ただし高級魚、特にト  
ロについては、まず日本が買い付けて値が上がり現地に  
はなかなか回ってこない。しかし総じてアメリカの日本

and marketing vegetables and have brought prices down. With the substitution of fish from the Atlantic, there is no shortage of seafood. The FDA recently approved even the preparation and serving of *fugu* [globefish]. Still difficult to obtain locally are certain choice cuts of fish such as *toro* [fatty tuna], which Japan buys up, raising world prices. But on the whole, the United States is now self-sufficient in

(continued on page 27)

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作／あべ善太

Story by Abe Zenta

画／倉田よしみ

Illustrated by Kurata Yoshimi



Oyaji (behind the counter, on the right) presides over the convivial clientele of Fujimura. Typical of kappō restaurants, there are no tables; seating is only at the counter where interaction with the chef is a part of the dining experience.



Also adding flavor to the stories is Bon-san, a former Buddhist monk who was defrocked after selling a statue of Buddha to pay a gambling debt. He and Ibashi provide a humorous contrast in characters since, in spite of their age difference, they are both near the bottom of the ladder in the restaurant.

**Aji Ichi Monme** has been serialized in ビッグコミック スペリオール (*Big Comic Superior*) since 1986.

# 味いちもんめ

## *Aji Ichi Monme* **A Bit of Flavor**

The title of this series, *Aji Ichi Monme*, is taken from *Hana Ichi Monme*, the name of a traditional children's game, and the first line of a song sung while playing the game. A *monme* (匁) is an old unit of weight equal to about 0.13 ounces, so *Hana Ichi Monme*, while fanciful in the vein of "pocket full of posies," literally means something like "a *monme* (tiny weight) of flowers." We have translated *Aji Ichi Monme* as "A Bit of Flavor."

The stories in *Aji Ichi Monme* center around the employees and customers of the traditional kappō restaurant Fujimura. The restaurant is owned and managed by veteran chef Kumano, generally referred to respectfully as *oyaji* ("old man/father" → "boss"). Although Fujimura is located in the Shinjuku area of Tokyo, Kumano is from Kyoto, and he speaks in Kansai dialect. We indicate Kansai dialect in the translations with a "K" after the Politeness Level—for example, PL2-K.

The main character in many of the episodes, including our selection in this issue, is a young apprentice chef named Ibashi. Fresh out of a cooking school, his youthful exuberance provides the perfect catalyst to draw out Oyaji's wisdom and advice.



This episode begins with the staff of Fujimura learning a lesson about the history of sushi.

第1話

# 寿司



日本の食文化が  
生んだ名調味料  
醤油なくしては  
語れない……





**Title:** 第一 話 寿司  
**Dai Ichi Wa: Sushi**  
 No. 1 story sushi  
**Story No. 1: Sushi**

**Narration:** 日本 の 食文化 が 生んだ 名調味料、 醤油 なくして は 語れない。  
*Nihon no shoku-bunka ga unda mei-chōmiryō, shōyu nakushite wa katarenai.*  
 Japan of food culture (subj.) gave birth great/famous seasoning soy sauce without as for cannot speak  
You can't talk about [it] without mentioning the renowned seasoning that Japan's culinary culture produced—soy sauce.

## Japanese Cuisine Goes International

(continued from page 21)

料理食材は、日本からの輸入に頼ることなく、いまは  
 自給自足体制にある。

第4に、板前やサービススタッフを日本人に頼らなく  
 なった。日本から呼び寄せの板前のビザ取得と  
 高給支給の問題への対策で、現地スタッフの採用と  
 教育が徹底してきた。特に中南米系の従業員が多い  
 が、彼らが日本レストランのノウハウを得て、自国に  
 帰って日本レストランを経営するという広がりも見せ  
 始めている。

### 国際舞台で攻勢に出る日本料理

第5に、日本料理の国際舞台での可能性を示唆するヌー  
 ボー日本料理の登場。ビバリーヒルズの  
 「MATSUHISA」で名を挙げた松久信幸氏（通称ノブさん）がロバート・デ・ニーロらと共同でオープンした  
 「NOBU」は、いまニューヨークでもっともホットなレストラン。彼はペルーやアルゼンチン、アラスカで日本料理づくりの経験があり、それらの食材やスパイスを日本料理に応用して成功した。ノブさんは「この秋はベニスで、ベニスの食材を使って料理イベントをする。日本料理の技を踏まえていれば、新しい日本料理が世界各地で可能だ」と語る。

一方でアメリカ人シェフが日本料理にアプローチする。「Kokachin」、「Bouley」、「Lespinasse」、「Gramercy Tavern」、「Monkey Bar」などニューヨークの注目レストランはこぞって日本料理素材・調理法を応用したメニューを持つ。ニューヨークタイムズは去る3月29日付特集でこうした日本料理の進出に注目し、この傾向がさらに強まることを予想した。

Japanese food ingredients, and it is no longer necessary to rely on imports from Japan.

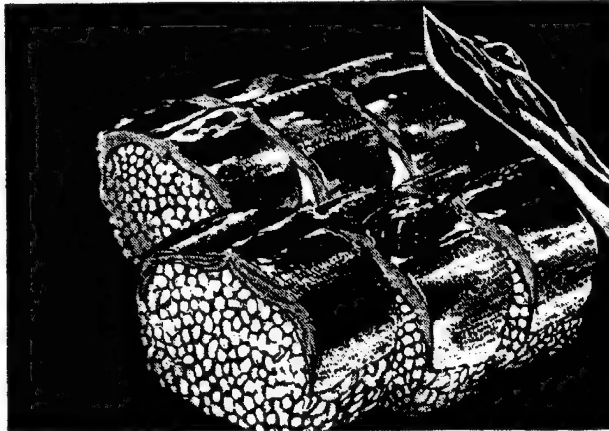
Fourth, the chefs and serving staff are no longer necessarily Japanese. In response to the visa hassles and high pay demands of chefs brought over from Japan, restaurants have begun making a concerted effort to recruit and train local staff. Many such employees come from Central and South America, and we are now beginning to see the further spread of Japanese cuisine when these people take the skills and know-how they have acquired at restaurants in the United States and return home to open Japanese restaurants in their own countries.

### Taking the Offensive on the International Stage

Fifth is the emergence of nouveau Japanese cuisine, suggesting the potential that Japanese food holds on the international stage. Restaurateur Nobuyuki Matsuhisa ("Nobu-san"), who first made a name for himself with "Matsuhisa" in Beverly Hills, has now gone in with a group including Robert DeNiro to open "Nobu" in New York, which has become the hottest restaurant in the city. He has practiced his art in Japanese restaurants as far-flung as Peru, Argentina, and Alaska, where he successfully adapted indigenous ingredients and spices into Japanese food. "This fall, in Venice," he says, "I will be holding an event in which I cook with Venetian ingredients. So long as you keep your feet firmly planted in the techniques of Japanese cookery, it's possible to create new Japanese dishes anywhere in the world."

At the same time, American chefs have begun trying their hand at Japanese cuisine. The menus at "Kokachin," "Bouley," "L'espinasse," "Gramercy Tavern," "Monkey Bar" and other popular New York restaurants include a variety of dishes that make use of Japanese ingredients and preparation methods. A March 29 article in *The New York Times* noted these inroads being made by Japanese cuisine and predicted that the trend was likely to grow stronger.

(continued on page 29)





- 1 **Kuroda:** キレイ です ねえ。  
*Kirei desu nē.*  
 pretty/beautiful is/are (colloq.)  
 “Beautiful!” (PL3)

- *nē* with a long vowel is like a mild exclamation.

## Japanese Cuisine Goes International

(continued from page 27)

### 海外日本料理、日本逆輸入の可能性

翻<sup>ひるがえ</sup>って日本国内<sup>にほんこくない</sup>では、ノブさんがほとんど一般日本人<sup>いっぽうにほんじん</sup>には知られていないように、国際化<sup>こくさいか</sup>した日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>の逆輸入<sup>ぎやくゆにゅう</sup>にはあまり興味<sup>きょうみ</sup>がないようで、「美<sup>う</sup>き国<sup>くに</sup>」の伝統<sup>でんとう</sup>のもとに、かたくなな“国粹主義<sup>こくすいしゆぎ</sup>”が根強い<sup>ねづよ</sup>のは否<sup>いな</sup>めない。帰国<sup>きこく</sup>子女問題<sup>しじょもんだい</sup>に例<sup>たと</sup>えるわけではないが、海外<sup>かいがい</sup>の日本人<sup>にほんじん</sup>が日本<sup>にほん</sup>ではなかなか受け入れられないのに似た構図<sup>こうず</sup>もありそう<sup>う</sup>だ。日本<sup>にほん</sup>に根<sup>ね</sup>づいた海外<sup>かいがい</sup>生まれ<sup>う</sup>の日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>はカリフォルニア<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>ロールくらいで、あとはキワモノ<sup>きわもの</sup>的に見<sup>み</sup>られているのが現実<sup>げんじつ</sup>だろう。

しかし、ノブさんのようなアメリカの「超<sup>ちやう</sup>日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>」がトレンド<sup>しんしゆつ</sup>的なアメリカンブランド・ファッション<sup>かいうせい</sup>と見<sup>み</sup>なされるとしたら、「ファッション」からのアプローチ<sup>かいうせい</sup>で海外<sup>かいがい</sup>の日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>が日本<sup>にほん</sup>に進出<sup>しんしゆつ</sup>する可能性<sup>かいうせい</sup>はある。奇<sup>く</sup>しくも野茂<sup>の</sup>が腕一本<sup>うでいっぽん</sup>でアメリカ大リーグ<sup>だいりーぐ</sup>での活躍<sup>かつやく</sup>で日本<sup>にほん</sup>に再デビュー<sup>さいでいぶ</sup>するのと同時期<sup>どうじき</sup>に、ノブさん<sup>のぶさん</sup>が包丁一本<sup>ほうちやういっぽん</sup>、日本<sup>にほん</sup>で再デビュー<sup>さいでいぶ</sup>する。そのときは、海外<sup>かいがい</sup>の日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>が初<sup>はじ</sup>めて日本<sup>にほん</sup>で市民権<sup>しみんけん</sup>を得<sup>え</sup>る日<sup>ひ</sup>となる。

日本料理<sup>にほんりょうり</sup>の国際化<sup>こくさいか</sup>が海外<sup>かいがい</sup>圧力<sup>あつりよく</sup>で進展<sup>しんてん</sup>する。これはなん<sup>なん</sup>となく、日本社会<sup>にほんしゃかい</sup>の国際化<sup>こくさいか</sup>の手法<sup>しゆほう</sup>と軌<sup>き</sup>を一<sup>いつ</sup>にしているようだ。

### Bringing an Internationalized Japanese Cuisine Back to Japan

Turning now to the situation within Japan itself, few average Japanese know anything about Nobu-san, and by the same token few seem to have any interest in re-importing an internationalized Japanese cuisine. It seems safe to say that behind the traditions of Japan's "culture of taste," a stubborn culinary nationalism remains deeply rooted. Although it can't be compared to the problems faced by Japanese children returning after living overseas, there does seem to be a certain similarity to the lack of acceptance of Japanese coming back from overseas. California roll sushi is about the only foreign-born Japanese food to take root in Japan; nothing else has amounted to more than a passing fad.

Suppose, though, that a "supra-Japanese cuisine" like that created by Nobu-san were to take on the trendy image of a fashionable American-brand. It's possible that an internationalized Japanese cuisine could then gain acceptance in Japan in the manner of a new fashion. Wouldn't it be a curious coincidence if the day when Nomo makes his second debut in Japan after taking the American Major Leagues by storm with his powerful arm were the same day when Nobu-san makes his second debut with his innovative cooking knife. It would be the day when an internationalized Japanese cuisine finally attains Japanese citizenship.

So we see pressure from overseas serving as the catalyst for the internationalization of Japanese cuisine. Somehow, it seems to be following the same path as the internationalization of Japanese society as a whole.

Original Japanese story by Takashima Mitsuo, Editor-in-Chief of *New York, NY* and *Good Morning, NY*. English translation by Wayne Lammers, except where V.P. Simmons meddled and made gratuitous editing changes.



- 1 **Bon-san:** 「鮎ずし」 も 昔 は “馴れずし” やった そうです ね。  
*Ayu-zushi mo mukashi wa “nare-zushi” yatta sō desu ne.*  
 sweetfish sushi too/also long ago/formerly as for fermented sushi was (hearsay) (colloq.)  
**“I hear ayu-zushi used to be a kind of narezushi.” (PL3-K)**

- *ayu* = “sweetfish,” and *-zushi* = *sushi* (the *s* changes to *z* for euphony in combinations). *Ayu-zushi* is what the master chef has just finished making.
- *narezushi* is the ancestor of *sushi* as it’s known today. In its original form, it would be better described as “pickled fish,” since it began as a way of preserving fish by packing it in salt and rice and allowing it to ferment from several months to a year. Initially, only the pickled fish was eaten and the rice was thrown away, but later the rice came to be eaten as well.
- *yatta* here is dialect for *datta*, the plain/abrupt past form of *da* (“is/are”). *Sō da/desu* after a complete thought/sentence implies the speaker is repeating information he has heard/learned secondhand.

- 2 **Kuroda:** ナレズシ って?  
*Narezushi tte?*  
*narezushi* (quote)  
**“What’s narezushi?” (PL2)**

- *tte* is a colloquial quotative form used with the intonation of a question when repeating something the other person has said to ask for clarification: “what do you mean (by) ~?” or “what is ~?”

- 3 **Ibashi:** 琵琶湖 の 「鮎ずし」 って 知らない か?  
*Biwa-ko no “funa-zushi” tte shiranai ka?*  
*Biwa-lake of crucian carp sushi (quote) not know (?)*  
**“You know about Lake Biwa’s funa-zushi, don’t you?” (PL2)**

- *funa-zushi* made from a kind of *funa* (“crucian carp”) caught in Lake Biwa, near Kyoto, is the best-known variety of *narezushi* still made today.
- here *tte* is a colloquial equivalent of *to iu no o* (lit., “a thing that is called”). The *o* marks it as the object of *shiranai ka*?
- *shiranai* is the negative form of *shiru* (“come to know”), so the question is literally “don’t you know ~?” But the implicit criticism in that English question would be expressed using the explanatory *no* in Japanese (*shiranai no ka?*); without the explanatory *no*, the question feels more like “maybe you have heard (of) ~.”

- 4 **Ibashi:** あれ みたいに、塩漬けにした 魚 の 腹 に ご飯 を 詰め、漬け込んで 発酵させた すし だ。  
*Are mitai ni shiozuke ni shita sakana no hara ni gohan o tsume tsukekonde hakkō saseta sushi da.*  
 that like salted fish’s stomach in rice (obj.) stuff-and pickle-and let ferment sushi is  
**“It’s sushi made like that, by stuffing salted fish with rice and packing them for pickling and letting them ferment.”**  
**“It’s sushi like that, made by stuffing salted fish with rice and weighting them down in a pickling tub to ferment.” (PL2)**

- *are* (“that”) here refers to *funa-zushi*, and ~ *mitai ni* implies “like ~,” so *are mitai ni* = “like that/like *funa-zushi*.”
- *shiozuke* refers to something that has been pickled with salt, or to the process of pickling with salt, and *shiozuke ni shita* is the plain/abrupt past form of the verb phrase *shiozuke ni suru* (“pickle with salt”); as a modifier, the past form is like “salted ~.”
- *tsume* is the stem form of *tsumeru* (“stuff”), here acting as a continuing form: “stuff and ~.” *Ni* marks *hara* (“stomach”) as the place that is stuffed, so the Japanese literally says “stuff rice into the stomachs of salted fish” → “stuff salted fish with rice.”
- *tsukekonde* is the *-te* form of *tsukekomu*, which means “pickle [something],” usually referring specifically to the process of packing the food in the pickling solution/container and weighting it down with a pickling stone. The *-te* form is acting as a continuing form: “pickle and ~.”
- *hakkō saseta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *hakkō saseru*, the causative (“make/let”) form of *hakkō suru* (“[something] ferments”).
- *shiozuke ni shita* is a complete thought/sentence (“[it] has been salted”) modifying *sakana* (“fish”). In turn, *are mitai ni shiozuke ni shita sakana no hara ni gohan o tsume, tsukekonde hakkō saseta* is a complete thought/sentence (“[they] stuffed salted fish with rice and packed them for pickling and made them ferment like that”) modifying *sushi*.

- 5 **Bon-san:** お前、 「鮎ずし」 好き か?  
*Omae, “funa-zushi” suki ka?*  
 you funa-zushi like (?)  
**“Do you like funa-zushi?” (PL2)**

- Ibashi:** あれは カンベン。 臭い が...  
*Are wa kanben. Nioi ga...*  
 that as for forgive/excuse smell/odor (subj.)  
**“As for that, [please] excuse me. The smell is...”**  
**“With that stuff, I have to pass. The smell is too much.” (PL2)**

- *omae* is a rough/casual, masculine word for “you.”
- *suki* (*da/desu*) = “like”; normally, the liked object is marked with *ga*, and the person who likes it is marked with *wa*, but in this case both particles have been omitted.
- *kanben* here is short for *kanben shite kudasai* (“please forgive/excuse”).

- 6 **Bon-san:** あの 美味さ が 分かん よう では 通 と は 言えん で。  
*Ano umasa ga wakaran yō de wa tsū to wa ien de.*  
 that tastiness (subj.) can’t discern appearance/situation if it is connoisseur (quote) as for cannot say/call (emph.)  
**“You can’t be called a connoisseur if you can’t appreciate the taste of funa-zushi.” (PL2)**

- Ibashi:** 通 でなくて 結構! ポク は やっぱり 江戸前 の にぎり が...  
*Tsū de nakute kekkō! Boku wa yappari Edomae no nigiri ga...*  
 connoisseur even if am not fine I/me as for after all Edo-style that is hand grasped/pressed (subj.)  
**“Not being a connoisseur is fine! For me, in the end, [it has to be] Edo-style hand-pressed sushi.”**  
**“Not being a connoisseur is fine with me! For me it has to be Edo-style nigiri-zushi.” (PL2)**

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[6] (continued from previous page)

- *umasa* is a noun form of *umai* (“tasty/delicious”) → “tastiness/deliciousness.” *Ano* (“that”) again refers to *funa-zushi*.
- *wakaranai* is a contraction of *wakaranai* (“not understand/discern” or in this case, “not appreciate”), negative of *wakaru*, which can mean either “come to know/understand,” or “can understand/discern/appreciate.”
- *yō* often refers to “appearance/manner,” but here it’s better thought of as “situation.” *De wa* = “if it is ~,” so ~ *yō de wa* = “if it is the situation that ~.”
- *ien* is a contraction of *ienai*, negative of *ieru* (“can say”), the potential form of *iu* (“say”).
- *de* is used at the end of a sentence for emphasis in the Kansai dialect; it can be equivalent to either *ze* or *yo* in standard Japanese.
- *de naku te* (or *ja naku te*) *kekkō* is equivalent to ~ *de/ja nakute ii* (lit., “is good/fine even if it is not ~” → “not being ~ is fine” or “it doesn’t need/have to be ~”).
- *yappari* essentially implies that a situation accords with what one might expect: “after all/as you might expect [it really has to be so].”
- *Edomae* means “Edo-style” (Edo is the old name for Tokyo), and *nigiri* here is short for *nigiri-zushi* (lit., “grasped/squeezed sushi”), which refers to the kind of sushi most Americans think of: a bite of vinegared rice pressed into a rounded rectangular block in the palm of the hand and topped with a small slice of raw fish. This style of sushi, which replaced the pickling process with fresh fish and freshly cooked rice flavored with vinegar, was developed in Edo in the early 19th century, so it’s often referred to as *Edomae*.

[7] **Ibashi:** そう だ!! 寿司 に しょう!  
*Sō da! Sushi ni shiyō!*  
 that way is sushi to make/choose  
 “That’s it! I’ll make it sushi!”  
 “That’s it! We’ll have sushi!” (PL2)

- *sō da* (lit., “it is so/it is that way”) is often used like an exclamation at the beginning of a sentence to express a sudden realization/thought/idea, like “Oh, I know!/that’s it!”
- ~ *ni shiyō* is the volitional (“Let’s/I shall/I think I’ll”) form of the expression ~ *ni suru*, which indicates a choice is being made: “I’ll make it/choose/have ~.”

[1] **Ibashi:** あっ!  
*A!*  
 (interj.)  
 “Oh!” (PL2)

[2] **Ibashi:** あの ね、明日 の 休日、香里ちゃん と デート なの。だから 寿司 でも...  
*Ano ne, ashita no kyūjitsu, Kaori-chan to dēto na no. Dakara sushi demo...*  
 uhh/um (colloq.) tomorrow that is day off (name-dim.) with date (explan.)-is so sushi or something  
 “See, I’m going out with Kaori on my day off tomorrow. So I thought, maybe some sushi...” (PL2)

- *ano* is a pause/hesitation word similar to “uhh/um,” or sometimes like “that is/I mean”; *ne* in the middle of a sentence is also a kind of verbal pause, similar to the English “you know/you see/I mean/like.”
- *no* between two nouns makes the first into a modifier for the second in a wide variety of ways; here it’s like “that is”: *ashita no kyūjitsu* = “day off [that is] tomorrow.”
- *-chan* is a diminutive equivalent of *-san* (“Mr./Ms.”) most typically used with the names of children, but also among close adult friends.
- *dēto* comes from the English word “date.” The word in Japanese used to refer only to “dating” in the sense of meeting/going out with a romantic interest, but today one occasionally hears it used for other kinds of “social appointments” as well.
- *na no* shows he is making an explanation; *na no* (*da/desu*) is the form the explanatory *no* takes when following nouns, pronouns and certain particles. The *desu* often becomes *da* in casual speech (especially of males), but it can also be omitted altogether (especially by females).
- *demo* literally means “or something/someone/someplace,” etc., but it’s often used merely as a “softener” without carrying its literal meaning. In this case, he would not use *demo* if there weren’t any other possibilities, but he’s essentially saying he’s decided on taking Kaori out for sushi.

[3] **Bon-san:** ええ、ええ。何でも 食うたら ええ。  
*E, e. Nan demo kūtara ē.*  
 good/fine good/fine anything/whatever if eat is good/fine  
 “Fine, fine. Eat whatever you want.” (PL2-K)

**Ibashi:** キヒヒ  
*Kihihi*  
 (self-satisfied laugh)

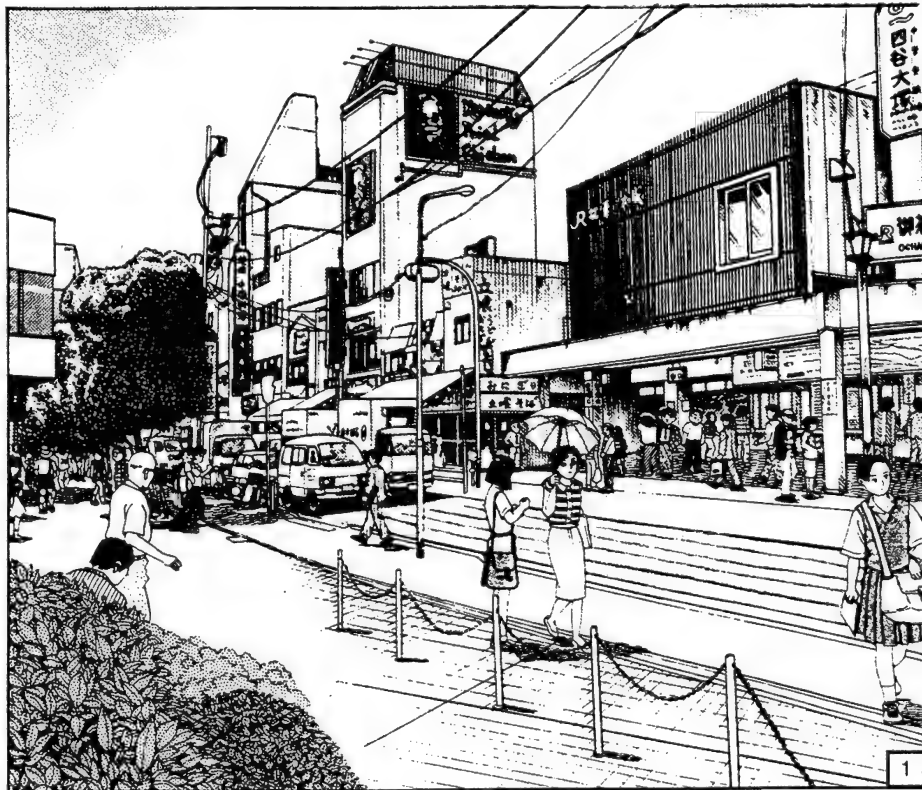
- *ē* is dialect for *ii/yoi* (“good/fine”).
- *kūtara* is dialect for *kuttara*, a conditional (“if”) form of *kuu* (“eat,” informal and mostly masculine); a conditional form plus *ii/yoi* can mean “you should [do the action],” or “go ahead and [do the action].”

[4] **Bon-san:** そやけど な、店 は しっかり 選ばなアカン。  
*So ya kedo na, mise wa shikkari erabana akan.*  
 but (colloq.) shop/restaurant as for well/carefully must choose  
 “But be careful about which restaurant you choose.” (PL2-K)

**Bon-san:** 目ン玉 飛び出す ような 勘定 取られる こと ある よって な。  
*Me n tama tobidasu yō na kanjō torareru koto aru yotte na.*  
 eyeballs leap out type bill be taken/charged thing/situations exist because (colloq.)  
 “There are situations when you’ll be charged a bill that’ll make your eyeballs jump out.”  
 “There are places where your eyes will pop out when they bring you the check.” (PL2-K)

- *so ya kedo* is dialect for *sō da kedo* (“although it is so” → “but”). Many long vowels in standard Japanese get shortened in Kansai speech, and *ya* often replaces *da* (cf. *yatta* for *datta* above).
- *erabana akan* is dialect for *erabanakereba ikenai*, a “must/have to” form of *erabu* (“choose/select”).

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4 (continued from previous page)

- *yō na* (“type”) makes the complete thought/sentence *men tama (ga) tobidasu* (“[your] eyeballs leap out”) into a modifier for *kanjō* (“bill/charges/the check”) → “a bill of the kind that [makes] your eyeballs leap out.” *O*, to mark *kanjō* as the direct object of *torareru*, has been omitted.
- *torareru* is the passive form of *toru* (“take,” or when speaking of billings, “charge”).
- *koto (ga) aru* (lit. “thing/situation exists”) after a non-past verb is an expression meaning the described situation/circumstance “can occur/sometimes does occur.”
- *yotte* is dialect for *kara* (“because/so”).

5 **Oyaji:** 昔 は 屋台 で 商った 気軽な 食べ物 やった そうや が...  
*Mukashi wa yatai de akinatta kigaru na tabemono yatta sō ya ga...*  
 formerly/long ago as for stalls/booths at sold lighthearted/casual food was apparently but  
 “They say that a long time ago, sushi was a casual snack food sold from little stalls, but...” (PL2)

- *akinatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *akinau* (“conduct trade/deal/sell”). *Yatai de akinatta* is a complete thought/sentence (“[they] sold [it] in stalls”) modifying *kigaru na tabemono* (“casual food”).
- *yatta* is again dialect for *datta* (“was”), the plain/abrupt past form of *da* (“is/are”), and *sō ya* is dialect for *sō da*, indicating the information is secondhand → “apparently was.”

6 **Bon-san:** 今や すっかり 高級な 食べ物 になってもうた。  
*Imaya sukkari kōkyū na kuimono ni natte mōta.*  
 now-(emph.) completely high class food has become-(regret)  
 “Now it’s turned into a very upscale dish.” (PL2)

**Ibashi:** 屋台 で 売ってた んですか... ヘーっ。  
*Yatai de utteta n desu ka... Hē!*  
 stalls at were selling (explan.-?) (exclam.)  
 “They sold it from stalls? How about that!” (PL3)

**Box on Shelf:** はくさい  
*Hakusai*  
 Chinese (Nappa) Cabbage

- *imaya* is an emphatic form of *ima* (“now”).
- *kuimono* is a less formal, mostly masculine equivalent of *tabemono* (“food”).
- *natte mōta* is dialect for *natte shimatta*, the *-te* form of *naru* (“become”) plus the plain/abrupt past form of *shimau* (“end/finish/put away”), which after the *-te* form of a verb implies the action is/was undesirable/regrettable. *Ni* marks *kōkyū na kuimono* as the result of the becoming.
- *utteta* is a contraction of *utte ita*, past form of *utte iru* (“is selling”), from *uru* (“sell”).
- *hē* is a light exclamation, like “Gee!/Wow!/How about that!” giving the feeling that the speaker is at least mildly impressed.

1 **Upper Right:** 四谷・大塚  
*Yotsuya, Ōtsuka*  
 (place names)

**Right Bldg.:** JR 御茶の水駅  
*Jei-āru Ochanomizu-eki*  
**JR Ochanomizu Station**

- “JR” is the acronym used by the privatized Japan Railways group, formerly the Japanese National Railways. *Ochanomizu* is in central Tokyo.

2 **Pavement:** とまれ  
*Tomare*  
**Stop**

**On fence:** (ニコ)ライ 学院 / 受付中  
*(Niko)rai Gakuin / Uketsuke-chū*  
**Nikolai School / Accepting (applications)**

**Kaori:** 知ってる お寿司屋さん ある の?  
*Shitteru osushiya-san aru no?*  
 know (hon.)-sushi shop-(hon.) exist (explan.)  
 “Is there a particular sushi shop you know?” (PL2)

**Ibashi:** いいや。  
*Iiya.*  
 no  
 “Nah.” (PL2)

- in the background is a Russian Orthodox cathedral popularly known as *Nikorai-dō* (ニコライ堂, “Nikolai Cathedral”) after its founder. The partly obscured sign on the wall appears to advertise one of the schools affiliated with the cathedral.
- *shitteru* is a contraction of *shitte iru* (“know”).
- *-ya* indicates a “shop,” so *sushi-ya* = “sushi shop”; *o-* and *-san* are often added for politeness, especially by female speakers.
- *wa*, to mark *osushiya-san* as the topic of *aru* (“exist/ have” for inanimate things), has been omitted, as it often is in casual speech.
- asking a question with *no* is very common in informal speech, especially among female speakers and children.

3 **Ibashi:** いい じゃない、適当に 入れば。  
*li ja nai, tekito ni haireba.*  
 good/fine/OK is not at random if go in  
 “It’s fine if we go in at random, is it not?”  
 “Any place should be fine, don’t you think?” (PL2)

**Kaori:** 大丈夫? とんでもない 値段 だったりしない?  
*Daijōbu? Tondemonai nedan dattari shinai?*  
 all right/OK preposterous/outrageous price not be something like  
 “Is it OK? Couldn’t it possibly be an outrageous price?”  
 “Are you sure? Couldn’t you get charged some outrageous amount?” (PL2)

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3 (continued from previous page)

- *ii ja nai* might look like “[it] is not good,” but it’s actually a colloquial short form of the rhetorical *ii ja nai (desu) ka*, “[it] is good/fine/OK, is it not?”
- *tekitō ni* may be best known as meaning “suitably/appropriately,” but it can also mean “in an ad hoc manner/at random.”
- *haireba* is a conditional “if” form of *hairu* (“enter/go in/come in”). The syntax is inverted; normal order would be *tekitō ni haireba ii ja nai*.
- *daijōbu* means “all right/OK” in the sense of “no cause for concern.” Using it as a question implies there is cause for concern: “Is it OK?/Are you sure it’s safe?”
- *dattari shinai* is the negative form of *dattari suru* (“is something like”), the *da/desu* equivalent of a regular verb’s *-tari suru* form (“do a thing/things like ~”). As a question, *dattari shinai?* is equivalent to “isn’t it likely to be ~?”

4

**Ibashi:** 平気、 平気!  
Heiki, heiki!  
no concern no concern

“Don’t worry, don’t worry!” (PL2)

**Ibashi:** 銀座 の 高級店 じゃあるまい し、 高がしれてる よ。  
Ginza no kōkyū-ten ja arumai shi, taka ga shireteru yo.  
(place) of high-class shop/restaurant is not so can’t be too expensive (emph.)

“It’s not like it’s some high-class restaurant in Ginza, so it can’t be all that expensive.” (PL2)

- *ja arumai* is equivalent to the conjectural *ja nai darō*, “is probably/surely not.”
- *taka ga shireteru* is a contraction of *taka ga shirete iru*, an idiomatic expression meaning “is nothing great” or “can’t be all that expensive/valuable.”

1

**Signs:** 宮西 古書 / 三春 寿司  
Miyanishi Koshō / Miharu Sushi  
(name) old books (name) sushi

**Miyanishi’s Secondhand Books / Miharu Sushi Shop**

**Noren:** 三春 寿司  
Miharu Sushi

**Miharu Sushi Shop**

- most traditional Japanese eateries hang a “shop curtain” known as *noren* across their entrance when they are open for business. In this case the *noren* is intended to be read right to left; it is as if you are reading vertical text (top to bottom and right to left), except that each line contains only a single character. Traditionally, this was the standard way to write horizontal text.

2

**Chef A:** らっしやい!

Rasshai!  
welcome

“Come right in!” (PL4 informal)

- *rasshai* is an informal contraction of *irasshai*, the abrupt command form of the PL4 verb *irassharu* (“come”). Shopkeepers use *irasshai* or the more formal *irasshaimase* to welcome customers.





1 **Chef B:** で さ、 ヤマちゃん 一打目 を 空振り!  
*De sa, Yama-chan ichida-me o karaburi!*  
 so (colloq.) (name-dim.) first swing (obj.) whiff/strike  
**"So, like, Yama-chan whiffed his first swing." (PL2)**

**Chef A:** ムヒヒヒ、 / 空振り ですか?  
*Mu hi hi hi, / karaburi desu ka?*  
 (laugh) whiff/strike is it?  
**"Hee hee hee, whiffed it, did he?" (PL3)**

- *de* is short for the conjunctive phrase *sore de*, literally "and with that" → "and so."
- *sa* (or sometimes *sā*) is a particle used colloquially as a kind of verbal pause to draw the listener's attention to what the speaker is saying, something like a teen's use of "like/you know" in colloquial English.
- *wa*, to mark *Yama-chan* as the topic of the sentence, has been omitted, as it often is in colloquial speech.
- *da* is a counter suffix for swings/strokes/hits, and *-me* is for counting places in a sequence, so *ichida* = "one stroke/swing," and *ichida-me* = "first stroke/swing."
- *karaburi* means literally an "empty swing" → "a swing and miss" when speaking of trying to hit a ball in sports such as golf or baseball. Here it implies *karaburi shita* ("swang and missed the ball"), past form of *karaburi suru*.

2 **Chef B:** 打ち直したら これ また OB で さ。  
*Uchi-naoshitara kore mata obii de sa.*  
 when swung again this again out of bounds is/was (colloq.)  
**"Then when he swung again, he hit it out of bounds." (PL2)**

**Chef A:** ムヒヒヒ、泣いてた でしょ、ヤマちゃん。  
*Mu hi hi hi, naiteta desho, Yama-chan.*  
 (laugh) was crying probably right? (name-dim.)  
**"Hee hee hee, he must have been in tears." (PL3)**

- *uchi-naoshitara* is a conditional ("if/when") form of *uchi-naosu*, "hit/swing again." The stem of a verb (*uchi* is the stem of *utsu*, "hit/swing") plus the suffix *-naosu* implies repeating the action/doing it over.
- *kore mata* is like "once again"—here meaning that Yama-chan blew his shot once again, though, as we see, not in the same way.
- the abbreviation OB, read *ōbii*, is used as the term for "out of bounds" in Japanese golf. Most Japanese golf terms derive from English.
- *naiteta* is a contraction of *naite ita*, past form of *naite iru* ("is crying/in tears"), from *naku* ("cry").
- *desho* (or *deshō*) literally makes a conjecture, "probably/surely is," or with a rising intonation, a conjectural question: "was probably/must have been ~, right?"

3 **Ibashi:** 握って ください。  
*Nigitte kudasai.*  
 grasp/squeeze please  
**"We'd like some nigiri-zushi please." (PL3)**

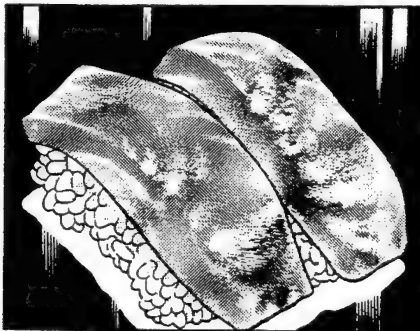
- *nigitte* is the *-te* form of *nigiru* ("grasp/squeeze in one's hand"), and *kudasai* after the *-te* form of a verb makes a relatively polite request, "please." *Nigiru* is the verb from which *nigiri* in *nigiri-zushi* comes, so *nigitte kudasai* in this context means "Please make [us] some *nigiri-zushi*."

4 **Ibashi:** 何 が いい?  
*Nani ga ii?*  
 what (subj.) good  
**"What would you like?" (PL2)**

**Kaori:** マグロ と イカ!  
*Maguro to ika!*  
 tuna and squid  
**"Tuna and squid." (PL2)**

- ~ *ga ii* is used to express a choice/preference, "I prefer/I want ~"; *nani* = "what," so *nani ga ii?* asks what a person's preference/choice is: "What would you like?/What will you have?"

5 **Ibashi:** じゃあ、僕 も 同じ で...  
*Jā, boku mo onaji de...*  
 then/in that case I/me also the same with  
**"Then I'll go with the same." (PL2)**



- 1 **Chef A:** その ホール、 結局 10打 かな。  
Sono hōru, kekkyoku jūda ka na.  
that hole finally/in the end 10 strokes is/was perhaps  
“That hole, in the end, was perhaps 10 strokes.”  
“His final score for the hole was 10 strokes, I think.” (PL2)

**Chef B:** ショート ホール でしょ?!  
Shōto hōru desho?  
short/par 3 hole right?  
“It was a par 3 hole, right?” (PL2)

- *ka na* typically asks a conjectural question, “I wonder if/is it perhaps?” Here it simply implies he’s not quite sure about the number he states: “it was ~, I think.”
- in Japanese usage, *shōto hōru* (from the English “short hole”) always refers to a “par 3 hole.”

- 2 **Ibashi:** 何だ、コイツ。 客 を 放り出して、 ゴルフ の 話 ばかり。  
(thinking) Nan da, koitsu. Kyaku o hōridashite, gorufu no hanashi bakari.  
what is this guy customer (obj.) abandon/neglect-and golf of talk only  
“What’s with this guy? He ignores his customers and just jabbars on about golf.” (PL2)

- *koitsu* is a contraction of *kono yatsu* (“this guy/fellow/thing”), a rather rough way of referring to another person.
- *kyaku* is used to refer to house/hotel “guests,” or to “customers/clients” of almost any kind of business.
- *hōridashite* is the *-te* form of *hōridasu* (“throw away/abandon/neglect”); the *-te* form here is being used as a continuing form, “neglects and ~”
- something like *shite iru*, from *suru* (“do”), is understood at the end; *hanashi (o) shite iru* = “is talking,” *hanashi bakari shite iru* = “is doing nothing but talk,” and *gorufu no hanashi bakari shite iru* = “talking about nothing but golf” or “doing nothing but talk about golf.”

- 3 **Chef A:** ヘイ!  
Hei!  
here  
“Here you go!” (PL2)

- *hei* is a slang variation of *hai* which is used in this case like the English “here” when handing/submitting/showing something to the listener. *Hei* was used by the “merchant class” in Japan’s old feudal system as a sort of modest *hai*. It is still used in some traditional restaurants, small businesses, etc., and is especially common in the Kansai region.

- 4 **FX:** でろーん  
Derōn  
(effect of sloppiness/poorly made sushi)

- 5 **Chef A:** で、また 次の ホール が 池越え で  
De, mata tsugi no hōru ga ikegoe de—  
and so again next hole (subj.) over pond was-and  
“Then the next hole was over a pond, and—”

- *ike* = “pond,” and *-goe* is essentially a noun form of *koeru* (“go over/beyond”).

- 6 **Ibashi:** シャコ!  
Shako!  
mantis shrimp  
“Mantis shrimp!”





1 **Chef A:** ヘイ、ガレージ ー丁!  
*Hei, garēji itchō!*  
 yes/OK garage one count  
**“One garage, coming right up!” (PL2)**

- *hei* (or *hai*) is also used when responding to customer orders, like “yes sir!/right away, ma’am!/coming right up!”
- *garēji* is the katakana rendering of English “garage.”
- *itchō* is *ichi* (“one”) plus *-chō*, the counter suffix used for food/drink/menu items.

2 **Chef A:** シャコ... 車庫... ガレージ! ね、面白い でしょ?  
*Shako... shako... garēji! Ne, omoshiroi desho?*  
 mantis shrimp garage garage (colloq.) interesting/funny right?  
**“Shako is the same as shako, which means ‘garage.’ Get it? Funny, huh?” (PL3)**

- he explains that he’s playing on the Japanese pun between *shako* meaning “mantis shrimp” (蝦蛄 when written in kanji) and *shako* meaning “garage” (written 車庫).
- *ne* at the beginning of the sentence can be like “see/get it?”

3 **Chef B:** いい タレ (女) だ な。  
*Ii tare (onna) da na.*  
 good/fine sauce woman is (colloq.)  
**“Nice sauce (woman), huh?” (PL2)**

- he uses a not-widely-known slang word for “woman,” probably assuming Kaori and Ibashi will think he’s talking about some kind of dipping sauce (*tare*) instead of about Kaori.

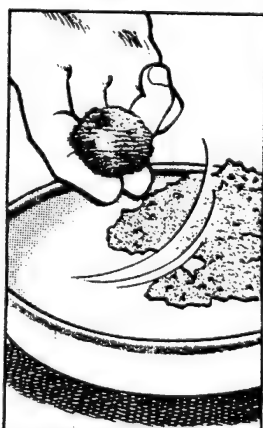
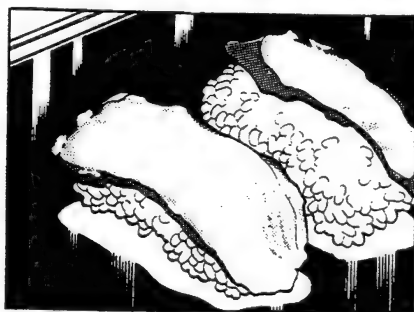
4 **Chef A:** いくつっすか ね?  
*Ikutsu ssu ka ne?*  
 how many/how old is (colloq.)  
**“How old d’ya figure?” (PL3 informal)**

**Chef B:** ビキビキ (22) ビキヤマ (23) って ところ かな?  
*Bikibiki (nijūni) bikiyama (nijūsan) tte toko ka na?*  
 (slang) 22 slang 23 (quote) place is perhaps  
**“Around bikibiki (22) or bikiyama (23), maybe.” (PL2)**

- *ikutsu* means “how many”; often, as here, it means “how many years of age,” but since it can mean “how many” of anything else, this doesn’t necessarily give away that they are talking about Kaori.
- *ssu* is a contraction of *desu* (“is/are”), so *ikutsu ssu ka* = *ikutsu desu ka* (“how old is she?”); adding *ne* gives it the feeling of “how old is she, do you think?”—or to keep it a little more ambiguous in this context, “how old do you think?”
- *bikibiki* and *bikiyama* are sushi-shop slang for the numbers indicated.
- *tte toko ka na* is a colloquial expression used when stating an approximation. *Tte* is equivalent to the quotative *to iu*, *toko* is a colloquial contraction of *tokoro* (lit. “place”), and *ka na* asks a conjectural question, so *tte toko ka na* is literally like “Is it perhaps a place called ~?”—with *toko* “place” referring to an approximate place on a quantitative scale.

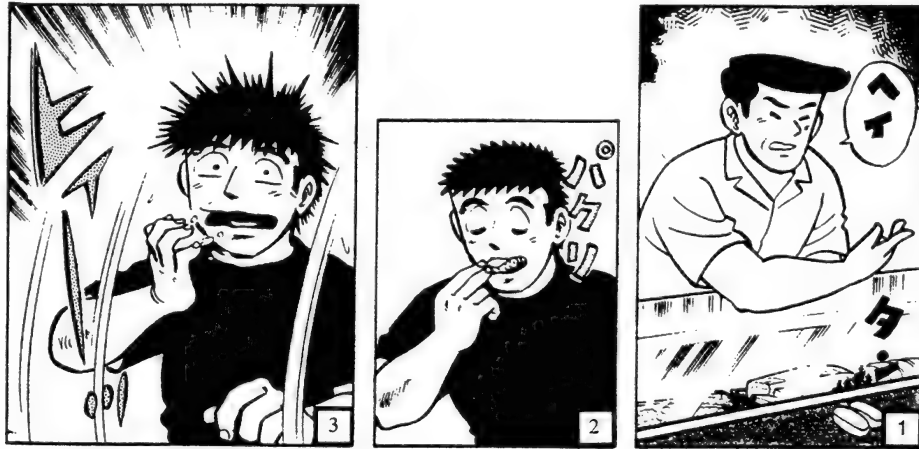
5 **Ibashi:** タコ!  
*Tako!*  
**“Octopus!” (PL2)**

- the word *tako* can be used as an insult (see “Outrageous Japanese” in Mangajin No. 30, pg. 32). Because he is speaking to a sushi “chef,” Ibashi is able to sneak in the insult without being openly confrontational (see next panel).



- 1 **Ibashi:** タコ くれ!  
Tako kure!  
octopus give to me  
“Give me some octopus!” (PL2)
- *kure* is the abrupt command form of *kureru* (“give to me”).
- 2 **Chef B:** ヘイ、 タコ!  
Hei, tako!  
yes/OK octopus  
“Octopus, coming right up!” (PL2)
- 3 **Ibashi:** 何 だ よ、 この 握り方?!  
Nan da yo, kono nigiri-kata?!  
what is (emph.) this squeezing/pressing-method  
“What is it—this method of hand-pressing?”  
“What kind of sushi is this?” (PL2)
- Kaori** 伊橋さん ...  
Ibashi-san ...  
(name-hon.)  
“Ibashi...” (PL3)
- *nigiri* is the stem form of *nigiru* (“grasp/squeeze/press in one’s hand”), and *-kata* after the stem of a verb means “way/method of [doing the action].”
- 4 **Ibashi:** 転がっても 崩れない の が 「にぎり」の 基本 だって 言う じゃないか!  
Korogatte mo kuzurenai no ga “nigiri” no kihon da tte iu ja nai ka.  
even if rolls/tumbles not crumble (nom.) (subj.) *nigiri-zushi* of basics/fundamentals is (quote) say do they not?  
“They say not falling apart even if it tumbles is a fundamental [requirement] of *nigiri-zushi*.”  
“One of the basic standards for *nigiri-zushi* is that it not fall apart even if it rolls over!” (PL2)
- Ibashi:** 転がっても どころか、置いた だけ で 崩れちゃって。  
Korogatte mo dokoro ka, oita dake de kuzurechatte.  
even if rolls/tumbles far from set down only by crumbled-(regret)  
“Far from rolling over, it fell apart just by being set down.”  
“Forget about rolling over—this one fell apart as soon as you set it on the counter.” (PL2)
- *korogatte mo* is a conditional “even if” form of *korogaru* (“roll over/tumble”).
  - *kuzurenai* is the negative form of *kuzureru* (“crumble/fall apart/collapse”), and *kuzurechatte* is a contraction of *kuzurete shimatte*, the *-te* form of *kuzureru* plus the *-te* form of *shimau* (“end/finish/put away”); *shimau* after the *-te* form of a verb implies the action is undesirable/regrettable.
  - *no* is a nominalizer that makes the complete thought/sentence *korogatte mo kuzurenai* (“even if [it] rolls over, [it] doesn’t fall apart”) act as a single noun → “not falling apart even if it rolls over.” *Ga* marks this noun as the subject of *nigiri no kihon da* (“is the fundamental [principle/requirement] of *nigiri-zushi*”).
  - *tte* here is equivalent to quotative *to*. ~ *to iu ja nai ka* is literally a question, “[they] say that ~, do they not?” but *ja nai ka* questions are often purely rhetorical and actually amount to strong assertions: he is berating the chef, not asking him a polite question.
  - *X dokoro ka Y* is most typically an expression for “far from X, not even Y” or “not even Y, much less X.” In this case, *Y* (= *oita dake de kuzurechatte*) is negative in its meaning rather than in form, so it is like “far from X, Y.”
  - *oita* is the plain/abrupt past form of *oku* (“place/set down”).
  - *dake de* after a verb implies “by that action alone.”
- 5 **Chef B:** 握り直しゃ いい ン だろ?!  
Nigiri-naosha ii n daro!  
if press/make again is good/OK (explan.) right?  
“So it’ll be OK if I remake it, right?”  
“So I’ll make it over!” (PL2)
- *nigiri-naosha* is a contraction of *nigiri-naoseba*, a conditional (“if/when”) form of *nigiri-naosu* (“re-squeeze” → “re-make”), from the stem of *nigiru* (“grasp/squeeze/press in one’s hand”) and the suffix *-naosu*, which implies repeating the action/doing it over.
  - *-ba ii* makes an expression meaning “it is enough to do ~/all [I/you] have to do is ~.” Using *n daro* makes it a testy/irritated retort.
- 6 **FX:** ギュウギュツギュツ  
Gyū gyu! gyu!  
(effect of squeezing/pressing extra hard)
- after pressing the rice extra hard, the chef applies several times the usual amount of *wasabi* (“Japanese horseradish”).





1      **Chef B:**    へイ!  
                  *Hei!*  
                  here  
                  “**Here you go!**” (PL2)

**Sound FX:**    タン  
                  *Tan*  
                  (effect of slapping the sushi on the counter)

2      **FX:**    パクリ  
                  *Pakuri*  
                  (effect of taking a big bite—here of taking the whole sushi in his mouth at once)

3      **Ibashi:**    ヒーッ!  
                  *Hii!*  
                  (exclam.)  
                  “**Aiiii!**”  
                  • the sound is Ibashi’s reaction to the large dose of spicy *wasabi*.

4      **Ibashi:**    な、何だ、    この    店    は?!  
                  *Na- nan da,    kono    mise    wa?!*  
                  (stammer) what is    this    shop/restaurant as for  
                  “Wh- what *is* this shop?”  
                  “**Wh- what kind of a place *is* this?!**” (PL2)

**Chef A:**    ムヒヒヒ  
                  *Mu hi hi hi*  
                  (laugh)  
                  “**Hee hee hee.**”

5      **FX:**    ギリギリギリ  
                  *Giri giri giri*  
                  (effect of grinding his teeth in anger)

**To be continued . . .**

# にっぽん ちゃちゃちゃ

## Nippon Cha-Cha-Cha

by 山崎光佑 /Yamazaki Kōsuke



- 1 **Bartender:** あちら の お客様 から です。  
*Achira no okyaku-sama kara desu.*  
 over there that/who is (hon.)-customer-(hon.) from is  
**"This is from the gentleman over there."** (PL3-4)

- *achira* means "over there/that direction"—referring to a place that is some distance away from both the speaker and the listener. Compare with *kochira* = "here/this direction" (close to the speaker), *sochira* = "there/your direction" (close to the listener), and *dochira* = "where/what direction?"
- *kyaku* means "guest/visitor," or in a business context "customer/client." Any person serving customers would use the honorific *okyaku-sama* or slightly less formal but still very polite *okyaku-san*.



- 2 **Customer:** なるほど。ああ やって キッカケ を つくる のか。  
*Naruhodo. Ā yatte kikkake o tsukuru no ka.*  
 aha/I see that way doing opportunity (obj.) make (explan.-?)  
**"Aha, so that's how you create an opening."**  
**"Aha, so that's how you get their attention."** (PL2)

- *naruhodo* expresses one's understanding of, or interest in, what one has heard/observed/experienced: "aha/I see/indeed/interesting."
- *ā* is equivalent to *ano yō ni*, "like that/in that way," and *yatte* is the *-te* form of *yaru* ("do," informal); the *-te* form is being used to make a modifier that indicates manner, so *ā yatte* = "doing like that."
- *kikkake* refers to a thing/action/event that serves as the occasion or motivating factor for doing something → "a chance/opportunity/opening."
- *no ka* literally makes a question that asks for an explanation, "is it that one makes opportunities that way?"; but such questions are often used rhetorically when observing/confirming something for oneself, with the feeling of "So it's that ~, is it?/I guess/it seems."



- 3 **Noren:** そば  
*Soba*  
 buckwheat noodles  
**Soba**

- *soba* refers to thin, light-brown noodles made with buckwheat flour, eaten either in a hot broth or with a cold dipping sauce.



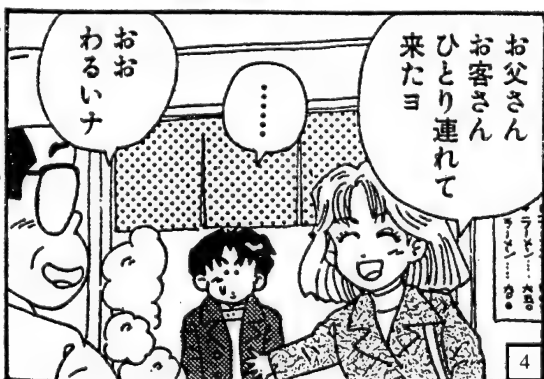
- 4 **Waiter:** あちら の おふたり から です。  
*Achira no o-futari kara desu.*  
 over there that/who are (hon.)-two persons from is  
**"This is from the two gentlemen over there."**  
 (PL3-4)

- *futari* is the counter for "two persons"; adding the honorific prefix *o-* makes it more polite.

# にっぽん ちゃちゃちゃ

## Nippon Cha-Cha-Cha

by 山崎光佑 / Yamazaki Kōsuke



1 **Woman:** あ〜ん、寒い ねエ。  
An, samui nē.  
(exclam.) is cold (colloq.)  
“Ooooh, it’s cold, isn’t it!” (PL2)

**Man:** ホント。  
Honto.  
truth/true  
“Really!” (PL2)

- *nē* with a long vowel is like a mild exclamation. Using katakana for the final particles/syllables is a style many manga artists adopt as a “pop” way of adding light emphasis.
- *honto* is an informal *hontō* (“truth”); in colloquial speech it’s often used to reply: “really/it’s true/you’re right.” In this case, too, using katakana instead of the normal hiragana can be considered light emphasis.

2 **Woman:** こんな寒い日は 熱いラーメンに限るよネ。  
Konna samui hi wa atsui rāmen ni kagiru yo ne.  
this kind of cold day as for hot ramen is best (emph.)(colloq.)  
“On a cold day like this, hot ramen is the only way to go, isn’t it.” (PL2)

**Man:** よし、それでいくか。  
Yoshi, sore de iku ka.  
good/OK that with go (?)  
“All right, let’s go with that.” (PL2)

- *kagiru* literally means “limit/restrict”; *~ ni kagiru* (literally “limit to” or “is limited to”) is often an idiomatic expression for “is the best/most effective/only desirable option.”
- *yoshi* (or *yōshi*) is an interjection/exclamation form of *ii/yoi* (“good/OK”), often used when making a decision.
- *ka* literally makes it a question, “will we go with that?” but the question is purely rhetorical → “we’ll go/let’s go with that.”

3 **Woman:** 私、おいしい店知ってる。  
Watashi, oishii mise shitteru.  
I/me tasty/delicious shop know  
“I know a delicious shop.”  
“I know a place where the ramen’s really great.” (PL2)

**Man:** よし、そこに行こう。  
Yoshi, soko ni ikō.  
good/OK that place to let’s go  
“All right, let’s go there.” (PL2)

- *wa*, to mark *watashi* (“I/me”) as the topic of the sentence, has been omitted, as it often is in colloquial speech; similarly, *o*, to mark *mise* (“shop/restaurant”) as the direct object of *shitteru*, has been omitted.
- *shitteru* is a contraction of *shitte iru* (“know”).
- *ikō* is the volitional (“let’s/I shall”) form of *iku* (“go”).

4 **Woman:** お父さん、お客さんひとり連れて来たヨ。  
Otōsan, okyaku-san hitori tsurete kita yo.  
father (hon.)-customer-(hon.) one person brought (emph.)  
“Dad, I brought you a customer.” (PL2)

**Father:** おお、わるいナ。  
Ō, warui na.  
(interj.) bad/thanks (colloq.)  
“Ahh, thanks.” (PL2)

- *kyaku* = “guest/client/customer”; shopkeepers always add the honorific *o-* and *-san* (or the more formal *-sama*) for politeness. *O*, to mark *okyaku-san* as the direct object of *tsurete kita*, has been omitted.
- the standard counter suffix for people is *-nin*, but the first two are irregular: “1 person” = *hitori*, and “2 people” = *futari*.
- *tsurete kita* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tsurete kuru* (“bring [a person or animal]”); compare *motte kuru* = “bring [an inanimate thing]”.
- *warui* (“bad”) is used idiomatically as an apology (“it’s bad of me to have done that” → “sorry”) or expression of gratitude (“it’s bad of me to be so much in your debt” → “thanks”).



# 味満亭

あじ まん てい

## Ajimantei

### The Flavor-Full Café

by 大野真志郎/ Ōno Shinjiro



**Title:** 味 満 亭  
Aji man tei  
taste/flavor full restaurant  
**The Flavor-Full Café**

- *-tei* is a suffix applied to many traditional-style restaurants in Japan.

**1** **Chef:** どうだ、政、調子 は?  
*Dō da, Masa, chōshi wa?*  
how is (name) condition/situation as for  
**"How's it coming, Masa?" (PL2)**

**Junior Chef:** 大将、できました!! 見てください。  
*Taishō, dekimashita! Mite kudasai.*  
boss is finished look please  
**"Boss, I've finished it! Please look."**  
**"I've done it, boss. What do you think?" (PL3)**

- *mite* is the *-te* form of *miru* ("see/look at"), and *kudasai* after the *-te* form of a verb makes a relatively polite request.

**2** **Jr. Chef:** 女性 の お客様 を 意識して 作ってみました!!  
*Josei no okyaku-sama o ishiki shite tsukutte mimashita!*  
female who are (hon.)-customers (obj.) thinking of tried making  
**"I made it thinking especially of our female customers."**  
**"I made it with our female customers in mind." (PL3)**

**Chef:** ほう。  
*Hō.*  
(interj.)  
**"Oh?" (PL2)**

- *kyaku* means "guest/visitor," or in a business context, "customer/client." Any person serving customers would address or refer to them with the honorific *okyaku-sama* or the slightly less formal but still very polite *okyaku-san*.
- *ishiki shite* is the *-te* form of *ishiki suru* ("be particularly conscious/aware of"); the *-te* form here is used to indicate the manner of the next mentioned action → "[I did the action] thinking of ~/with ~ in mind."
- *tsukutte* is the *-te* form of *tsukuru* ("make"), and *mimashita* is the PL3 past form of *miru*, which after the *-te* form of a verb means "try [doing the action]" or "[do the action] and see."
- *hō* is an interjection showing interest or mild surprise, like "Really?/Oh?/Well, well/Hmm."

**3** **Jr. Chef:** イチゴ ショートずし。  
*Ichigo shōto-zushi*  
strawberry short sushi  
**"Strawberry short-sushi."**

**Chef:** こ... こりゃ イチゴ の 赤 が  
*Ko- korya ichigo no aka ga*  
(stammer) as for this strawberry of red (subj.)  
ワサビ クリームの 緑 に はえとる なあ。  
*wasabi kuriimu no midori ni haetoru nā.*  
*wasabi/horseradish cream of green in/against stands out (colloq.)*  
**"Well, the red of the strawberry really stands out against the green of the wasabi cream, doesn't it." (PL2)**

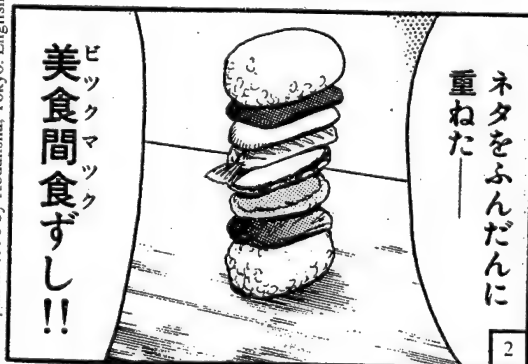
- *korya* (or *koryā*) is a contraction of *kore wa* ("as for this"). The phrase can serve as a kind of "warm-up" emphasis for exclamations, as it does here.
- *wasabi* = "Japanese horseradish," a very hot, green horseradish ground into a paste-like consistency. A small dab of *wasabi* is usually placed between the rice and the topping of *nigiri-zushi* ("hand-pressed sushi"). Given the quantity of "wasabi cream" pictured here, one can only hope not much more than a dab was used to flavor and color it.
- *haetoru* is a contraction of *haete oru*, which is equivalent to *haete iru*, from *haeru* ("glow/shine/be set off to good effect/stand out").
- *nā* with a long vowel has the effect of a mild exclamation.

# 味満亭

Ajimantei

## The Flavor-Full Café

by 大野真志郎 / Ōno Shinjiro



1 **Chef:** どうだ、政、調子 は?  
Dō da, Masa, chōshi wa?  
how is (name) condition/situation as for  
“How’s it coming, Masa?” (PL2)

**Junior Chef:** あっ、大将、できました。これです。  
A!, taishō, dekimashita. Kore desu.  
(interj.) boss is finished this is  
“Oh, boss. I’ve done it. Here it is.” (PL3)

- *chōshi* essentially refers to how something is progressing. When speaking of people it can refer to “health/condition” or how things are going for them in general; when speaking of a particular activity/endeavor, it refers to how it is developing/coming along—what the present situation is. *Dō da?* = “how is it?”, so *chōshi wa dō da?* asks “How’s it going/coming?” The syntax here is inverted—a common occurrence in informal speech.
- *taishō* is the formal military title for “general/admiral”; in civilian use it is an informal word for “chief/boss.”
- *dekimashita* is the PL3 past form of *dekiru*, meaning “be finished/done/ready” for things that are being made/prepared, such as food.

2 **Junior Chef:** ネタ を ふんだんに 重ねた  
Neta o fundan ni kasaneta  
seafood items (obj.) abundantly/plentifully stacked  
“I’ve stacked on lots of toppings to make ...”

**Junior Chef:** 美食 マック 間食ずし!  
Bikku makku-zushi!  
extravagant eating snacking sushi  
“Big Mac Sushi!” (PL2)

- *neta* refers to the food items (mostly seafood) placed on top of *nigiri-zushi* (“hand-pressed sushi”) or in the center of *maki-zushi* (“rolled sushi”).
- *kasane* is the plain/abrupt past form of *kasane* (“stack/pile up/layer”).
- 美食 is normally read *bishoku*, and is a noun referring to the eating of tasty/fine/extravagant foods; 間食 is normally read *kanshoku*, and is a noun for eating between meals. Since 食 can also be read *kuu* (usually written 食う) and 間 can be read *ma*, the artist has created a new reading: 美食間食 = *bi + ku + ma + ku* → *bikku makku*, which happens to be how “Big Mac” is pronounced in Japanese (or *biggu makku*). Kanji that are used just for their sound to write foreign words or non-standard Japanese words are called *ateji*. In some cases, as here, the *ateji* can be clever enough to reflect a meaning or meanings appropriate to the word: a sushi treat built like this one would indeed be quite extravagant, whether as a between-meal snack or as dinner.
- *neta o fundan ni kasaneta* is a complete thought/sentence (“[I] piled on the toppings plentifully”) modifying *Bikku makku-zushi*. *Da/desu* is understood at the end: “[It] is the Big Mac Sushi that I have piled lots of toppings on.”

3 **Chef:** こりゃ... すごい が... しかし...  
Korya... sugoi ga... shikashi...  
as for this is amazing/incredible but however  
“This is... amazing, but... however...” (PL2)

**Junior Chef:** さらに、かんぴょう巻きや カッパ巻き と  
Sara ni, kanpyō-maki ya kappa-maki to  
in addition gourd roll and cucumber roll together with  
セット価格 で だす んです。  
setto-kakaku de dasu n desu.  
set/combo price at serve/offer (explan.)  
“In addition, we’ll serve it at a set price together with gourd rolls and cucumber rolls.”  
“We can add some gourd and cucumber rolls and offer it all as a combo meal.” (PL3)

- *korya* is a contraction of *kore wa* (“as for this”).
- *-maki* = “roll,” and *kanpyō-maki* and *kappa-maki* are two kinds of rolled sushi, in which the sushi rice and *neta* are rolled within a sheet of *nori* (toasted seaweed) and cut into bite-sized cylinders.
- *n desu* shows he’s making an explanation.
- the head chef is apparently concerned about the cost of the *neta*. The junior chef’s plan, however, is to combine the extravagant *Bikku Makku* with two of the cheapest kinds of sushi.

## Book Review

(continued from page 62)

she might give them to. She doesn't bestow these gifts in order to cement a friendship with her woman friends but in hopes of seeing a small boy take off the clothes he's wearing and wriggle into the new ones. She feels a revulsion for girl children in general and an opposite, equivalent attraction to boys. Girls remind her of pupae in their cocoons—she thinks that the space they inhabit is close and cloying, but that boys are remarkably straightforward. There was a time, a few years earlier, when Akiko would have liked to have become a mother. "Every month, over and over, [her body] made a little bed inside for a baby, unaware that none would be born, and then took it apart again. And it had seemed to her a grave matter that not one person on this earth was created yet out of her own blood." Akiko is at a loss as to what to do with herself these days, having spent the last few years battling illness and seeing her career flounder. Lately her erotic fantasies tend to center on little boys being cruelly beaten by their fathers. Throughout *Toddler-Hunting*, these three strains—Akiko's self-loathing, her sadistic fantasies, and her chats with actual boys—remain separate, but the threat of the volatile mix they would make if they came together provides ample tension.

Kōno Taeko's works are striking because they show women pursuing their own basic impulses with all the force of their convictions. Kōno's women know what fulfills them sexually and spiritually, and they set about matter-of-factly pursuing it. What makes the stories disturbing is that, for many characters, cruelty—whether inwardly or outwardly directed—has become second nature. Kōno's fiction presents women whose attention to the details of their dreams, fantasies, and memories is so strong that they pursue them, even straight to their own destruction if that's where it leads. So the work raises troubling questions like, is this really a form of strength? Or how can women who know themselves well learn to live with themselves? All the stories in this collection are from among Kōno's early work, which may be one reason why the focus is on these questions and not on viable answers.

The translations (all by Lucy North except "Bone Meat," contributed by Lucy Lower) are clearly works of love. Care was obviously taken not only to make them unobtrusive and accurate, but also to be sure that they would carry all the emotional impact of the original. Occasionally, some less conspicuous paragraph giving background information on a character remains a little convoluted—as if the translator skipped over the final rewrite of the sections with the least emotional content—but this is a minor complaint. The collection is a masterful translation. Hopefully, in the future readers can look forward to seeing other works—perhaps later stories in which Kōno's interest apparently expanded to include war experiences, or one of her novels—join this one in print in English.

**Elizabeth Labouseur** is an editor and translator of fiction who lives in Tokyo.

• wriggle into = 身をくねらせて着る *mi o kunerasete kiru* • revulsion = 嫌悪 / 憎悪 *ken'ō/zōo* • pupa (pl., pupae) = さなぎ *sanagi* • flounder = 挫折する / つまずきを繰り返す *zasetsu suru/tsumazuki o kurikaesu* • convoluted = 入り組んだ / 複雑で不明瞭な *irikunda/fukuzatsu de fumeiryō na*

# OL進化論

OL Shinkaron

by 秋月りす / Akizuki Risu



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1 **Customer:** えーと、 なにに しょう かなー。 えーと、 えーと...  
*Ē to, nani ni shiyō ka nā. Ē to, ē to...*  
 umm/let's see what to shall make it I wonder umm/let's see umm/let's ee  
 "Let's see, I wonder what I should have? Let's see ... umm ..."  
**"Let's see, what'll I have? Let's see ... hmm ..."** (PL2)

- *ē to* is a pause/hesitation phrase, like "Uhh/umm/well/let's see."
- *shiyō* is the volitional ("let's/I shall") form of *suru* ("do/make"); *ni suru* is used to indicate a choice, so *nani ni suru* = "choose what?" and *nani ni shiyō* = "what shall I choose?"
- *ka na* asks a question like "I wonder if/what/how," so *nani ni shiyō ka na* = "I wonder what I should choose"; elongating the *nā* adds emphasis.

2 **Proprietor:** ...という 人 のために 作った の。  
*... to iu hito no tame ni tsukutta no.*  
 (quote) say person for made (explan.)  
**"I created it for people like that."** (PL2)

**Poster:** おふくろの 味 / おまかせ 定食 / 700円  
*Ofukuro no aji / O-makase teishoku / Nanahyaku-en*  
 mother of taste/ flavor (hon.)-entrusting set meal 700 yen  
 The taste of Mom's cooking / Leave-it-to-the-chef meal / ¥700  
**Just like mom used to make / Chef's choice meal / ¥700**

**OL:** おふくろの 味?  
*Ofukuro no aji?*  
 mother of taste  
**"Just like mom?"** (PL2)

Japanese with much the same feeling that "Mom's apple pie" carries in English. Literally it means "Mom's taste," implying "the taste of Mom's cooking" → "just like Mom used to make."

- *o-makase (suru)*, from *makaseru* ("leave it to/entrust it to [someone]"), here implies "leave it up to the chef/let the chef choose."

3 **Proprietor:** はいっ、今日のおまかせ。アジフライ と ひじきの 煮物。  
*Hai!, kyō no omakase. Aji-furai to hijiki no nimono.*  
 here today's chef's choice deep-fried mackerel and brown algae of simmered dish  
**"Here you go. Today's chef's choice. Deep-fried mackerel and simmered hijiki."** (PL2)

**Customer:** えーっ? さかな?  
*Ē-!? Sakana?*  
 hunh?/what? fish  
**"Wha-a-at? Fish?"** (PL2)

- *hai* is often used when handing/presenting something to someone, like "here/here you go" in English.
- *-furai*, from English "fry," is a suffix used to indicate deep-fried foods.
- *hijiki* is one of quite a few seaweeds used in Japanese cooking; it comes in small "flakes" rather than in sheets like the familiar *nori* used to make rolled sushi.
- *nimono*, literally "simmered thing," refers to a category of dishes in which the ingredients are simmered for a long time in a wide variety of stocks. Since this is a *teishoku* ("set meal"), he also gets bowls of rice and *miso* soup.

4 **Proprietor:** なーに 言ってん の? 体 に いい し、栄養ある んだ よ。 文句 言わずに 食べなさいっ。  
*Nāni itten no? Karada ni ii shi, ei-yō aru nda yo. Monku iwazu ni tabenasai!*  
 what are saying (explan.) body for is good and nutritious (explan.) (emph.) complaint without saying eat-(command)  
**"What're you talking about? It's good for you, and it's nutritious! Stop complaining and eat!"** (PL2)

**Customer:** はい、 はい。  
*Hai, hai.*  
 yes/all right yes/all right  
**"OK, OK."** (PL2)

**OL:** たしかに おふくろ だあ。  
*Tashika ni ofukuro dā.*  
 certainly/definitely mom is  
 "That certainly is mom!"  
**"It's just like mom all right!"** (PL2)

- *itten* is a contraction of *itte iru* ("is/are saying"), from *iu* ("say").
- *karada* is literally "body" but idiomatically often means "health": *karada ni ii* = "good for one's health" and *karada ni warui* = "bad for one's health"—or simply "good for you" and "bad for you," respectively.
- *shi* is an emphatic "and/and moreover."
- *ei-yō (ga) aru* is literally "[it] has nutrition" → "is nutritious/healthful."
- *monku* = "complaint/beef/gripe," and *monku o iu* is an expression for "complain/gripe/state an objection." *Iwazu ni* is equivalent to *iwanaide*, -te form of *iwanaide*, which is the negative of *iu* ("say"); the -naide form of a verb followed by another verb means to do the second action without doing the first, so *monku iwazuni* means "without complaining."
- *tabenasai* is a relatively gentle command form of the verb *taberu* ("eat"), here made somewhat stronger by the small *tsu* on the end, which implies a sharp tone of voice.



## Computer Corner

(continued from page 65)

to output files, as well as the amount of space TrueType fonts take up on computer hard disks, make these fonts completely undesirable for imagesetting. Most service bureaus will refuse to deal with files containing TrueType—Japanese or English. Often clients may create a file using TrueType for proofing purposes on their own laser printers, with the intention of converting to PostScript fonts prior to submitting the file to us. A frequent problem we encounter in cases such as this is lost TrueType characters hiding somewhere in the document. Even a mere *space* selected as a TrueType font will bomb a file and prevent it from printing.

### Be aware that color creates complexity

The integration of color into documents is becoming more and more commonplace, and the issues and considerations that must be understood are becoming more and more complex. Trapping, a process needed wherever one color abuts another to prevent gaps between the colors when printed, has become a major issue. Commercial printers are now able to deflect the blame for poorly trapped documents onto the desktop publisher or the imagesetter. Because of the complexities involved in trapping, we often create documents that either require no trapping or that we can turn over to our printer for implementation of the trapping. In cases where trapping cannot be avoided and must be implemented on the desktop, we have found that QuarkXPress J (Japanese) offers the best solution and should be strongly considered for production on any projects requiring anything more than spot-color usage.

### Stay up to date

As time goes by, desktop publishers need to be mindful of software upgrades, new font releases, and hardware limitations, among other things. We recently discontinued supporting Kanji PageMaker versions below 4.5 in an effort to get clients to keep pace with technology. We found that we were just not able to continue supporting five different versions of PageMaker—particularly ones that were as much as five or six years old.

These are by no means all the problems we encounter, but desktop publishers who keep these basic points in mind will save time and money.

**Andrew Taylor** is president of Japan Pacific Publications, Inc., in Seattle.

# OL進化論

OL Shinkaron

by 秋月りす / Akizuki Risu



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- 1 **OL1:** この ギョウザ、おいしいっ。  
Kono gyōza, oishii!  
this/these potstickers delicious  
“These *gyōza* are delicious!” (PL2)
- OL2:** おじさんが作ったの? すごーい。  
Ojisan ga tsukutta no? Sugoi.  
uncle. (subj.) made (explan.) amazing/remarkable  
“Did you make them? You’re really something.” (PL2)
- Proprietor:** へっへっへ  
Hehhehe  
(sheepish laugh)  
“Ha ha ha.” (PL2)
- *tsukutta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tsukuru* (“make”). Using explanatory *no* to ask a question is quite common in informal speech, especially among female speakers.
  - *gyōza* (Chinese *jiaozi*, “potstickers”) are dumplings made in a variety of ways, most commonly fried and steamed. They are one of many Chinese foods the Japanese have adopted with great enthusiasm (see *Mangajin* No. 53).
  - *ojisan* (lit. “uncle”) can be used to address or refer to any man past his mid-twenties or so, and is very commonly used to address male shopkeepers. It in effect serves in place of the person’s proper name, or as the equivalent of “you” in English.
- 2 **Proprietor:** じつは バイト の 王くん が 作った の。  
Jitsu wa baito no Ō-kun ga tsukutta no.  
actually part-time work of (name-fam.) (subj.) made (explan.)  
“Actually, my [new] part-timer Ō-kun made them.”  
“Actually, Ō-kun made them. He’s my new helper.” (PL2)
- Ō:** ヨロシク。  
Yoroshiku.  
(greeting)  
“Pleased to meet you.” (PL2-3)
- OL1&2:** なん だー。  
Nan dā.  
what is  
“Oh, so that’s it.” (PL2)
- *yoroshiku* is short for *yoroshiku o-negai shimasu*, which means roughly “I humbly request your favorable consideration/treatment.” This phrase is a virtually obligatory part of first meetings and introductions, filling much the same place as “I’m pleased to meet you” in English. Writing *yoroshiku* in katakana here implies he’s speaking with a foreign accent.
  - *nan da* (literally “what is it?”) at the beginning of a sentence is an idiomatic expression of disappointment/let down—though often in a very lighthearted sense.
  - *jitsu* = “truth/fact,” so *jitsu wa* = “as for the truth” → “in fact/actually.”
  - *baito* is a colloquial abbreviation of *arubaito*, from German *Arbeit* (“work/job”). *Arubaito* in Japanese refers to temporary/part-time work or a side job, and it’s most closely associated with young people.
  - *Ō* is the Japanese reading for the Chinese name 王 (Wang). *-kun* is a more familiar but still polite equivalent of *-san* (“Mr./Ms.”), used mainly with male peers or subordinates.
- 3 **OL1:** ぜったい 人気出る わ、これ。  
Zettai ninki deru wa, kore.  
definitely will become popular (fem. colloq.) this/these  
“They’re sure to become popular, these *gyōza*.” (PL2)
- OL2:** おじさん、いい 人 雇った わね。 商売 繁盛 まちがいなし! / このー...  
Ojisan, ii hito yatotta wa ne. Shōbai hanjō machigai nashi! / Konō...  
uncle good person hired (fem. colloq.) trade flourishing is definite this/you  
“You hired some good help. Your business is going to boom—no doubt about it! You old...” (PL2)
- Proprietor:** ハハ、そー かな。  
Ha ha, sō ka na.  
(laugh) that way I wonder  
“Ha ha, you really think so?” (PL2)
- *ninki* = popularity,” and *ninki (ga) deru* = “[someone/something’s] popularity emerges/rises” → “becomes popular.”
  - *yatotta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *yatou* (“hire”); *o*, to mark *ii hito* as the direct object, has been omitted, as it often is in colloquial speech.
  - *machigai* = “mistake” and *nashi* is an emphatic form of *nai* (“not exist”), so *machigai nashi* is literally “without mistake.” Idiomatically, the phrase implies “can be no mistake/is absolutely certain.”
  - *kono* is literally “this,” but in idiomatic use it often refers to the listener (“you”). This is most typically seen at the beginning of an insult or scolding, but here the feeling is more like “You lucky stiff!”
- 4 **Narration:** その 後  
Sono go  
that after  
**Later**
- OL1:** あれ? キョウザ は?  
Are? Gyōza wa?  
huh? potstickers as for  
“Huh? What happened to the *gyōza*?” (PL2)
- OL2:** 王くん は?  
Ō-kun wa?  
(name-fam.) as for  
“Where’s Ō-kun?” (PL2)
- Proprietor:** やめた よ。 自分で 店 を 始める そうだ。  
Yameta yo. Jibun de mise o hajimeru sō da.  
quit (emph.) by oneself shop/restaurant (obj.) will begin/open (hearsay)  
“He quit. He says he’s going to open his own restaurant.” (PL2)
- *are?* is an interjection of surprise/bewilderment/confusion: “Huh?/What?/What’s that?”
  - stating just a topic + *wa* (“as for”) with the intonation of a question asks very generally about the status/condition/location/etc. of that topic.
  - *yameta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *yameru* (“quit”).
  - *jibun* = “oneself,” and *jibun de* = “by oneself”—or in this case “by himself/on his own.”
  - *sō da* after an adjective or verb implies the speaker heard what he has just said from someone else—in this case, of course, from Ō-kun himself.

# OL進化論

OL Shinkaron

by 秋月りす / Akizuki Risu



1

**OL:** あっ!  
A!  
(exclam.)  
"Wow!" (PL2)

**Poster:** 春のサービス / じゃんけん 定食 / 800円  
Haru no sābisu / Janken Teishoku Happyaku-en  
spring of service rock-paper-scissors set meal 800 yen  
**Spring special: Janken Meal ¥800**

勝ったら タダ!!  
Kattara tada!  
if win free  
**Free if you win**

**Poster:** おすすめ メニュー  
O-susume Menyū  
(hon.)-recommended menu  
**Recommended Menu**

- *sābisu* (from the English "service") in Japanese implies "reduced price" or "free/complimentary," so *haru no sābisu* is like saying "spring special."
- *jan-ken* is the Japanese name of the "rock-paper-scissors" game.
- *teishoku* refers to the traditional Japanese "set meal" of rice, *miso* or other soup, and an entree.
- *kattara* is a conditional ("if/when") form of *katsu* ("win").
- *o-* is honorific, and *susume* is a noun form of *susumeru* ("urge/recommend"), so *o-susume menyū* = "recommended menu."

2

**OL:** さあ、おじさん、勝負 よ。  
Sā, Ojisan, shōbu yo.  
(interj.) uncle contest (emph.-is)  
"Well then, Ojisan, it's a contest."  
**"OK, Ojisan, I'll give it a shot." (PL2)**

**Proprietor:** おーし。  
Ōshi.  
all right  
**"Oka-a-ay!" (PL2)**

- *sā* is often used like "well now/well then/all right" to prepare oneself for action or to urge the listener to action.
- *shōbu*, written with kanji meaning "win" and "lose," is a word for "match/game/contest." In colloquial speech, *yo* by itself can serve as *desu yo* ("is/are" + emphasis).
- *ōshi* is a variation of *yōshi* (or *yoshi*), an interjectory form of *ii/yoi* ("good/all right") used when the speaker is about to take on a particular task or challenge.

3

**Proprietor:** じゃんけんポン。  
Janken pon.  
**"Jan-ken pon!" (PL2)**

**OL:** やった!  
Yatta!  
did it  
**"I won!" (PL2)**

- in *jan-ken*, the "players" rhythmically chant *jan-ken* to synchronize their timing, and then everyone puts out his/her hand in a rock, paper, or scissors shape on *pon*. Other phrases are used, too, sometimes quite long ones (especially among children), but *jan-ken pon* is the most common.
- *yatta* means "did [it]" (from *yaru*, "do"); when shouted as an exclamation it is like "All right!/Yeah!/Hooray!"

4

**FX:** ピラ  
Pira  
(effect of peeling paper away)

**Hidden Text:** 3回 勝負  
Sankai shōbu  
three times contest  
Three round contest.  
**Two out of three.**

**OL:** おじさん。  
Ojisan.  
**"Ojisan..." (PL3)**

こちら葛飾区



亀有公園前

秋本 治  
by Akimoto Osamu

派出所

# This is the Katsushika-ku Kameari Koen-mae Police Box

Part 2

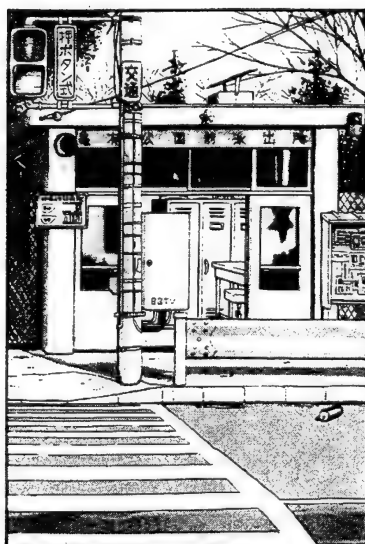
*Kochira Katsushika-ku Kameari Kōen-mae Hashutsu-jo*

Akimoto Osamu made his comic strip debut in 1976 with "Kochira Katsushika-ku Kameari Kōen-mae Hashutsu-jo," winning a prize in the annual *Young Jump* competition. The strip was published in the weekly *Shūkan Shōnen Jump* that same year and has been going strong ever since. In fact, "Kochira . . ." is the longest-running strip in *Shūkan Shōnen Jump*, which itself has the largest circulation of all the manga magazines in Japan.

"Kochira . . ." details the often outrageous exploits of Ryōtsu, a true-blue Edokko (Tokyoite) police officer stationed at a small neighborhood "police box" in Tokyo. Police boxes—small branch stations—are a common sight throughout Japan. Daily responsibilities of the officers who staff them usually include no more than giving directions and issuing parking tickets. The unusually blunt and rough-mannered Ryōtsu shares his police box with Nakagawa, an earnest junior officer, and Reiko, their secretary. Incidentally, Kameari Kōen is an actual park in Katsushika-ku, a district in northeastern Tokyo.



Ryōtsu



The Kameari Kōen-mae police box

In the previous episode, an unusual young boy wanders into the police box to ask directions. He is carrying a backpack with all kinds of built-in electronic devices, but it seems the navigation program in his portable computer has failed and he needs an ordinary map. In the course of his conversation with the officers, the boy demonstrates some of the other gadgets—a keyboard shaped like an abacus, a flute used to dial phone numbers, a personal security system, and even emergency air bags. It turns out that his father is the president of Super Electronics Company, the maker of the backpack. What's more, there is also an adult version, shaped like a briefcase, and they are looking for people to test it.



Ryōtsu, Nakagawa, and the mysterious boy



# スーパー電子G767

**1** すばい

**2** これが  
アタツ  
シエタイプ  
G  
X  
767  
です

パソコン  
キーボード

えきしょう  
液晶モニター画面

**3** 3  
バイエッチエスさいせいせんよう  
VHS 再生専用  
ビデオデッキ  
(もじ ほうそう  
文字放送チューナー付き)

**4** 4  
つうしんよう  
通信用  
ケーブル

フロッピー  
ディスク  
ドライブ

ファックス  
&  
プリンター

ハンド  
スキャナー  
(ちず しょうい  
地図や書類  
などコピーする)

ビデオ  
カメラ  
(アタッシュケース  
に入れたままでも  
しょうかのう  
使用可能)

カメラ  
レンズ

ビデオカメラ  
のスイッチ

システム手帳用  
システムカード  
(こくごかいわ  
11カ国語会話  
ちかてつ  
地下鉄 JR  
こうそくどうろ  
高速道路の  
のりつぎ  
乗継データなど  
50種類)

る するくつ  
留守録付き  
けいたいでんわ  
携帯電話

めいし よみとり き  
名刺読取機

コンパクトカメラ

モニターまど

グリップロック

1 **Boy:** これ が アタッシェタイプ  
*Kore ga atasshe-taipu*  
 this (subj.) attaché-type  
 GX767 です。  
*Jii-ekkusū nana-roku-nana desu.*  
 (model no.) is  
**"This is the attaché-type GX767." (PL3)**

**Ryōtsu:** すごい!  
*Sugoi!*  
 amazing/incredible  
**"Wow!" (PL2)**

- *atasshe* is short for *atasshe kēsu*, the full katakana rendering of "attaché case," which appears below. It is more commonly called "*atasshu kēsu*."
- *sugoi* means "amazing/awesome/remarkable/incredible," or when used as an exclamation, "Wow!"

2 **Headline:** スーパー 電子 GX767  
*Sūpā Denshi Jii-ekkusū nana-roku-nana*  
 super electronic (model no.)  
**The Super Electronic GX767**

**Top 1:** パソコン キーボード  
*Pasokon kiibōdo*  
**PC Keyboard**

**Top 2:** 液晶 モニター 画面  
*Ekishō monitā gamen*  
 liquid crystal monitor screen  
**LCD Display**

- *pasokon* is shortened from パーソナル・コンピューター *pāsonaru konpyūtā*, the cumbersome katakana rendering of the English "personal computer."

3 **Right 3:** VHS 再生 専用 ビデオ デッキ  
*Bui-etchi-esu saisei senyō bideo dekki*  
 VHS playback exclusive use video deck  
**Playback-only VHS video deck**  
 (文字放送 チューナー付き)  
*(moji hōsō chūnā-tsuki)*  
 closed-captioning tuner attached  
**(with closed-captioning decoder)**

**Right 4:** システム 手帳用 システム カード  
*Shisutemu techō-yō shisutemu kādo*  
 system notebook-purpose system cards  
**PC cards for electronic notebook**  
 (11か国語 会話、地下鉄、JR、  
*Jūikkakokugo kaiwa, chikatetsu, jei-āru,*  
 11 languages conversation subway (RR co. name)  
 高速道路 の 乗継 データ など、  
*kōsoku dōro no noritsugi dēta nado,*  
 toll roads of connections data things like  
 50種類)  
*gojūsshurui*  
 50 varieties  
**(50 cards, including 11 language dictionaries and subway-JR-toll road connection information)**

**Right 5:** 留守録付き 携帯 電話  
*Rusuroku-tsuki keitai denwa*  
 answering machine attached portable phone  
**Cellular phone with answering machine**

**Right 6:** 名刺 読取機  
*Meishi yomitori-ki*  
 business card reading machine  
**Business card scanner**

**Right 7:** コンパクト カメラ  
*Konpakuto kamera*  
**Compact camera**

3 (continued) **Right 8:** モニター まど  
*Monitā mado*  
 monitor window  
**Monitor/Viewfinder**

**Right 9:** グリップ ロック  
*Gurippu rokku*  
**Grip lock**

- *-tsuki* (from *tsuku*, "stick/attach") is a suffix meaning the item it follows "has been attached/included."
- *shisutemu* is a katakana rendering of the English "system"; *techō* refers to any kind of small pocket notebook for taking notes, keeping track of dates and addresses, etc., and *shisutemu techō* is the term coined in Japan for referring to customizable electronic personal organizers.
- *rusu* refers to a person's absence from home, and *roku* refers to a "record/recording," so *rusuroku* implies a recording made during one's absence. It can refer either to an answering machine function on a phone, or to the actual messages left by callers.

4 **Left 10:** 通信用 ケーブル  
*Tsūshin-yō kēburu*  
 communication purpose cable  
**Modem cable**

**Left 11:** フロッピー ディスク ドライブ  
*Furoppii disuku doraibu*  
**Floppy disk drive**

**Left 12:** ファックス & プリンター  
*Fakkusu ando purintā*  
 fax and printer  
**Fax machine and printer**

**Left 13:** ハンド スキャナー (地図 や  
*Hando sukyanā (chizu ya*  
 hand scanner maps and  
 書類 など コピーする)  
*shorui nado kopii suru)*  
 documents things like copy  
**Hand scanner (for copying maps, documents, and the like)**

**Left 14:** ビデオ カメラ (アタッシェ ケース に  
*Bideo kamera (atasshe kēsu ni*  
 video camera attaché case in  
 入れた まま でも 使用 可能)  
*ireta mama demo shiyō kanō)*  
 put in state even use possible  
 Video camera (possible to use even when  
 left inside the attaché case)  
**Camcorder (may be operated without  
 removing from attaché case)**

**Left 15:** カメラ レンズ  
*Kamera renzu*  
 camera lens  
**Camcorder lens**

**Left 16:** ビデオ カメラ の スイッチ  
*Bideo kamera no suitchi*  
 video camera off/for switch  
**Record button for camcorder**

- *ireta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *ireru* ("insert/put into"), and *atasshe kēsu ni ireta* is a complete thought/sentence ("[someone] put [it] in the attaché case"); *mama* means "unchanged from the described state," so *atasshe kēsu ni ireta mama* is literally "remaining in the state of having been put in the attaché case" → "without taking it out of the attaché case."



1 **Ryōtsu:** これで マシンガン が あれば  
*Kore de mashin-gan ga areba*  
 this with machine gun (subj.) if have/had

007 だ な。  
*zero-zero-sebun da na.*  
 007 is (colloq.)

**"If you had this and a machine gun, you'd be 007."** (PL2)

**Nakagawa:** ほとんど そろってます ね。  
*Hotondo sorottemasu ne.*  
 almost all are assembled (colloq.)

**"It's got practically everything."** (PL3)

- *areba* is a conditional ("if") form of *aru* ("exists/have" for inanimate things).
- *hotondo* means "the vast majority/almost all."
- *sorottemasu* is a contraction of *sorotte imasu*, the PL3 form of *sorotte iru*, which implies all the necessary/relevant items are assembled/in place.

2 **Boy:** にぎる 所 に 工夫 が  
*Nigiru tokoro ni kufū ga*  
 grasp place at contrivance/device (subj.)  
 あり、持ち主 の 指紋 を  
*ari, mochinushi no shimon o*  
 exists-and owner 's fingerprints (obj.)  
 登録しておく と...  
*tōroku shite oku to...*  
 register-(beforehand) if/when

**"The handle has a special mechanism, and once the owner has registered his fingerprints,..."**

- *nigiru tokoro* = "place that you grasp" → "handle."
- *kufū* refers to a clever/innovative/apt contrivance or course of action for accomplishing a desired purpose. Here, *kufū ga aru* (*ari* is the stem form of *aru*, "exists/has") implies the handle contains some sort of special mechanism. *Ni* marks *nigiru tokoro* as the place where the mechanism/contrivance is.
- *tōroku shite* is the *-te* form of *tōroku suru* ("register"), and *oku* after the *-te* form of a verb implies the action is done in anticipation of some future contingency.
- *to* after a non-past verb can make a conditional "if/when" meaning → "once." The sentence continues below.

3 **Boy:** 主人 以外 が 持つと 手 が  
*shujin igai ga motsu to te ga*  
 owner other than (subj.) if holds hand (subj.)  
 しまり、サイレン が なる んです。  
*shimari, sairen ga naru n desu.*  
 tightens-and siren (subj.) sounds (explan.)  
**"if someone other than the owner grabs it, it clamps down on his hand and a siren goes off."** (PL3)

**Ryōtsu:** それは すごい な。  
*Sore wa sugoi na.*  
 that as for amazing/incredible (colloq.)  
**"That's really something."** (PL2)

- *shimari* is the stem form of *shimaru* ("[something] closes/tightens"). *Te ga shimaru* here doesn't mean the hand itself closes/tightens, but rather that the handle closes/tightens around the hand → "clamps down on the hand."
- *naru* ("sounds") is used to speak of a wide variety of things making sounds/noises associated with them: [a bell] rings/tolls, [thunder] rumbles/rolls, [a siren/alarm] sounds/goes off, [shoes] squeak, [the whistle] blows, [the windows] rattle.

4 **Ryōtsu:** かついで 持っていかれたら  
*Katsuide motte ikaretara*  
 shoulder-and if is carried off  
 どう する んだ?  
*dō suru n da?*  
 what/how do (explan.)  
**"What do you do if someone shoulders it and carries it off?"**  
**"What if someone lugs it off without using the handle?"** (PL2)

**Boy:** この リモコン を  
*Kono rimokon o*  
 this remote control (obj.)  
 ポケット に 入れておけば...  
*poketto ni irete okeba...*  
 pocket in if put in beforehand  
**"If you put this remote control in your pocket beforehand,..."**

- *katsuide* is the *-te* form of *katsugu*, which strictly speaking means to "shoulder/carry on one's shoulder." In a looser sense it can refer to a person or persons "carrying/lugging" relatively large objects under his/their arms. Here it essentially means the person is picking up the case other than by its handle, thus circumventing the handgrip-lock and siren. The *-te* form acts as an adverb, indicating the manner of the next mentioned action, *motte ikaretara*.
- *motte ikaretara* is a conditional form of *motte ikareru*, passive form of *motte iku* ("carry away"), from *motsu* ("hold/carry") and *iku* ("go").
- asking a question with *n da?* is masculine and can sound quite rough.
- *rimokon* is shortened from *rimōto kontorōru*, the full katakana rendering of "remote control."
- *irete* is the *-te* form of *ireru* ("insert/put in"), and *okeba* is a conditional ("if/when") form of *oku*, which after the *-te* form of a verb implies doing the action in anticipation of some future contingency.

5 **Boy:** 本人 から 10 メートル 離れると  
*honnin kara jū mētoru hanareru to*  
 the person from 10 meters if/when separates  
 ベル が なります。  
*beru ga narimasu.*  
 bell (subj.) will sound  
**"a bell rings when it separates 10 meters from the person."**  
**"an alarm bell goes off if the case is moved more than 10 meters from you."** (PL3)

**Ryōtsu:** なるほど。  
*Naruhodo.*  
 aha/I see  
**"I see."** (PL2)

- *honnin* = "the person himself," or in this case, "the person being referred to."
- *to* is again making a conditional "if/when" form.
- *naruhodo* expresses one's understanding of, or interest in, what one has heard/observed/experienced: "aha/I see/indeed/interesting."
- *narimasu* is the PL3 form of *naru* ("sounds/rings/makes a noise").





1

**Boy:** 一か月 五万円 で モニター を  
*ikkagetsu goman-en de monitā o*  
 one month ¥50,000 at/for monitors/testers (obj.)  
 募集してる んです。  
*boshū shiteru n desu.*  
 is/are recruiting (explan.)  
**“We’re recruiting product testers at  
 ¥50,000 a month.”** (PL3)

**Ryōtsu:** なに?! 五万円?!  
*Nani?! Goman-en?!  
 what ¥50,000*  
**“What? ¥50,000?”** (PL2)

- *monitā* is a katakana rendering of “monitor”; one of the uses of *monitā* in Japanese is for the meaning “product tester/test user.”
- *boshū shiteru* is a contraction of *boshū shite iru*, from *boshū suru*, here meaning to “recruit.”

2

**Ryōtsu:** わし が モニター になって やる!  
*Washi ga monitā ni natte yaru!*  
 I/me (subj.) tester will become- (for you)  
**“I’ll be a tester for you.”** (PL2)

**Boy:** えっ、 本当 ですか?  
*E!, hontō desu ka?*  
 huh?/what? truth is it?  
**“Huh? Would you really?”** (PL3)

- *washi* is a word for “I/me” used mostly by middle-aged and older men, but sometimes by relatively young men as well.

3

**Signs:** 交通 / 押 ボタン式  
*Kōtsū Oshi botan-shiki*  
 traffic push button type  
**Traffic / Push Button for Signal**

- *oshibotan-shiki* literally just means “push-button type,” but it effectively informs pedestrians that they must push a button to get the light to change.
- the illustration is a direct front view of the Kameari Kōen-mae Police Box.

4

**Nakagawa:** ランドセル ばかりでなく、  
*Randoseru bakari de naku,*  
 backpack not only  
 机 も すごい 機能 だ!  
*tsukue mo sugoi kinō da!*  
 desk also amazing features is  
**“It’s not just the backpack—the desk  
 has incredible features, too!”** (PL2)

**Reiko:** 両ちゃん、 ちゃんと  
*Ryō-chan, chanto*  
 (name-dim.) properly/as expected  
 モニターしてる の かしら  
*monitā shiteru no kashira?*  
 testing (explan.) I wonder  
**“I wonder if Ryō-chan is testing the  
 attaché like he’s supposed to?”** (PL2)

**Top:** スーパー電子 机 / 小学生用  
*Sūpā Denshi Zukue / Shōgakusei-yō*  
 super electronic desk grade-schooler-purpose  
**Super Electronic Desk / Grade School  
 Edition**

**Right:** モニター 画面  
*Monitā gamen*  
 monitor screen  
**Monitor**

4 (continued)

**Left:** ビデオ テープ / とけい  
*Bideo tēpu / Tokei*  
**Video tapes / Clock**

テレビ 電話 モニター 画面  
*Terebi denwa monitā gamen*  
 TV telephone monitor screen  
**Videophone screen**

ファックス / テレビ 電話 / ビデオ デッキ  
*Fakkusu / terebi denwa / Bideo dekki*  
 Fax TV telephone video deck  
**Fax / Videophone / Video Deck**

**Box:** 一日 何時間 すわっていた か  
*Ichinichi nanjikan suwatte ita ka*  
 one day how many hours was sitting (?)

わかる 機能 付き  
*wakaru kinō -tsuki*  
 can tell feature attached/included  
 Includes a feature that can tell how many  
 hours per day [the desk’s owner] was sit-  
 ting [at the desk].  
**Keeps track of how many hours per day  
 the desk is being used.**

- ~ *bakari de naku* ~ *mo* = “not only ~ but also ~.”
- *chanto* basically implies doing the proper/necessary/ex-pected thing under the circumstances.
- *jikan* = “hour,” and *nanjikan* = “how many hours.”
- *wakaru* (“can know/tell”); ~ *ka wakaru* = “can tell if ~” or “can tell what/when/how much/etc. ~.” *Wakaru* is the end of a complete thought/sentence (“can tell how many hours per day [he/she] was sitting”) modifying *kinō* (“feature”).

5

**Nakagawa:** あっ、先輩!  
*A! senpai!*  
 (interj.) senior  
**“Ah! Ryōtsu!”** (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** わはは。今日 はプライベートで来た ぞ。  
*Wa ha ha. Kyō wa puraibēto de kita zo.*  
 (laugh) today as for private as came(emph.)  
**“A ha ha. Today I came on private  
 business.”** (PL2)

- *senpai* refers to a person who is one’s “senior” within a given group by virtue of having become a member of the group first. Later arrivals often address their predecessors/seniors as *senpai* rather than using their names.

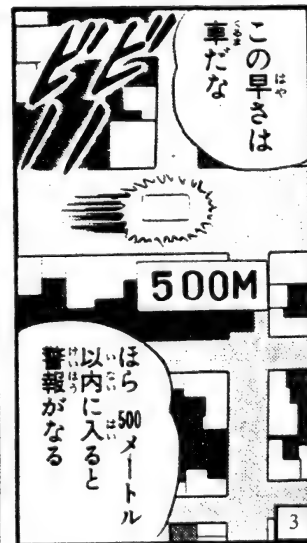
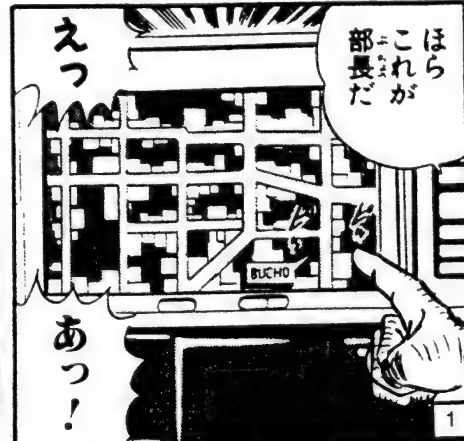
6

**Ryōtsu:** 社長 に たのみこんで  
*Shachō ni tanomikonde*  
 co. pres. to requested/pleaded-and  
 新しい 機能 を つけてもらった!  
*atarashii kinō o tsukete moratta!*  
 new feature (obj.) had him attach/add  
**“I asked the president [of Super Elec-  
 tronics] and got them to add a new fea-  
 ture.”** (PL2)

**Nakagawa:** えっ?  
*E?*  
**“What?”** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** チカッ  
*Chika!*  
**Click** (sound of opening attaché case)

- *tanomikonde* is the *-te* form of *tanomikomu*, which implies “pleading/entreating/asking persistently.”
- *tsukete moratta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tsukete morau*, from *tsukeru* (“attach [something]”). *Morau* after the *-te* form of a verb implies someone else did the action for the benefit of the speaker or subject.



1 **Ryōtsu:** ほら、これが 部長 だ。  
*Hora, kore ga buchō da.*  
 look/see this (subj.) dept. head is  
**"See, this is the boss."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
*Pi! pi!*  
**Dit dit** (electronic tones)

**Reiko:** えっ?  
*E?*  
**"What?"** (PL2)

**Nakagawa:** あっ!  
*A!*  
**"Wow!"** (PL2)

- *hora* is an interjection used when wishing to show a person something—like "here/look/see/watch."
- *bu* means "division/department," and the suffix *-chō* means "head/chief/leader," so Ryōtsu is literally saying "this is our department head." It's standard for Japanese employees to refer to and address their superiors by title rather than by name—something like referring to one's immediate supervisor as "boss."
- *a!* is an all-purpose interjection/exclamation of surprise in response to something observed: "Oh!/Oh no!/Hey!/Wow!"

2 **Ryōtsu:** 部長 に 発信機 を  
*Buchō ni hashshinki o*  
 dept. head to/on transmitter (obj.)  
 つけた から な。  
*tsuketa kara na.*  
 attached because (colloq.)  
**"I put a transmitter on him."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
*Pi! pi!*  
**Dit dit** (electronic tones)

**Nakagawa:** ドンドン 近づいてきます ね。  
*Dondon chikazuite kimasu ne.*  
 more&more/rapidly approaches-and-comes (colq.)  
**"He's approaching rapidly."** (PL3)

- *tsuketa* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tsukeru* ("attach [something]"). *Ni* marks what the item is attached to.
- *dondon* means to proceed or do "rapidly/more and more/lots and lots."

3 **Ryōtsu:** この 早さは 車 だ な。  
*Kono hayasa wa kuruma da na.*  
 this speed as for car is (colloq.)  
**"As for this speed, it's a car, it seems."**  
**"Judging from the speed, he's coming by car."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ビービー  
*Bii bii*  
**Bzzzz bzzzz** (sound of harsh warning beeps)

**Ryōtsu:** ほら、500 メートル 以内 に 入ると  
*Hora, gohyaku mētoru inai ni hairu to*  
 look/see 500 meters within to if/when enter  
 警報 が なる。  
*keihō ga naru.*  
 warning (subj.) sounds  
**"See. When he comes within 500 meters, a warning buzzer sounds."** (PL2)

- *hayasa* ("fastness/speed") is a noun form of the adjective *hayai* ("fast"); many adjectives can be made into nouns by changing *-i* to *-sa*.

4 **Ryōtsu:** やばい から 逃げる! じゃあな。  
*Yabai kara nigeru! Jā na.*  
 is bad/troublesome because/so will flee goodbye  
**"I'll get in trouble, so I'm outta here. See ya later."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ダッ  
*Da!*  
 (effect of taking off at a run)

**Nakagawa:** あっ、先輩!  
*A!, senpai!*  
 (interj.) senior  
**"Ryōtsu!"** (PL2)

- *yabai* is a slang word that means "bad/awkward/troublesome" in the sense that it could get the person in trouble.
- *jā* (a contraction of *dewa*) is literally "in that case/then," but it serves idiomatically as a casual/informal "good-bye." For this use, it's often followed by a *ne* or *na*.

5 **Reiko:** 本当に 来た わ。  
*Hontō ni kita wa.*  
 truly/really came (fem. colloq.)  
**"He really did come."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** キッ  
*Ki!*  
**Screech** (effect of car coming to halt with slight squeak of brakes)

**Nakagawa:** 正確 だ な。  
*Seikaku da na.*  
 precise is (colloq.)  
**"[The tracking device] is accurate."**  
**"It was right on the money."** (PL2)

**On Car:** 警視庁  
 (partly hidden) *Keishichō*  
**Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department**

- *kita* is the plain/abrupt past form of *куру* ("come").

6 **Sign:** 名画 シネマ  
*Meiga Shinema*  
 classic film cinema  
**Classic Cinema**

**Sign:** ダイハード 5  
*Daihādo Faibu*  
**Die Hard 5**

**Sign:** 絶賛 上映中  
*Zessan jōei-chū*  
 high praise midst of showing  
**Now Showing to Rave Reviews**

**Sign:** シリーズ 最高 / 本年度 No. 1!!  
*Shirīzu saikō / Honnendo nanbā wan!!*  
 series foremost/best this year No. 1  
**Best in Series / This Year's No. 1 Film**

- the prefix *mei-* means "masterful/famous/great"; when speaking of films, it's often equivalent to "classic."
- *jōei* refers to the showing of a film/movie/TV program; the suffix *-chū* means "during/in the midst of," so *jōei-chū* means "in the midst of being shown." This can mean either "film in progress," or "now showing" (in the sense of "that's the film scheduled at this theater now").
- *honnendo* (or just *honnen*) = "this year/the current year."



1 **Ryōtsu:** くくく、映画 を そのまま 撮っちゃった!  
*Ku ku ku, eiga o sono mama totchatta.*  
 (glee) movie (obj.) as is took/shot-(inapp.)  
**"Hee hee hee, I made a copy of the movie right off the screen."** (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** 家 に 帰って もう 一回  
*ie ni kaette mō ikkai*  
 home to return-and more one time  
 ロードショー やろお っと。  
*rōdoshō yarō tto.*  
 road show shall do (emph.)

**"I think I'll go home and have another showing."** (PL2)

- *ku ku ku* is a laugh stifled in the back of the throat.
- *sono mama* means "as is/without change," here implying he taped the whole movie exactly "as is/directly."
- *totchatta* is a contraction of *totte shimatta*, from *toru*, which, when written with this kanji, means "take a picture/shoot film." *Shimatta* adds the feeling that the action was something he shouldn't have done, properly or legally speaking—but obviously there is no regret involved here as there often is in other cases.
- *rōdoshō*, from the English "road show," when seen in movie advertisements, refers to the "exclusive engagement" of a movie at a major theater prior to the movie's general release, but here it simply means "a showing."
- *yarō* is the volitional ("let's/I shall/I think I'll") form of *yarū*, an informal word for "do."
- *tto* (or *to*) is sometimes used at the end of a sentence merely for emphasis, typically when declaring one's intention/plan.

2 **Sound FX:** ルルルル  
*Ru ru ru ru*  
 (ringing of cell phone)

**Ryōtsu:** ありゃ! / 電話 だ!?  
*Arya! / Denwa da!*  
 (interj.) telephone is  
**"Yikes! The phone's ringing."** (PL2)

- *arya* is a variation of *are!*, an interjection of surprise/bewilderment at something unexpected.

3 **Ryōtsu:** ここ の 番号 知ってる やつ は  
*Koko no bangō shitteru yatsu wa*  
 here/this place of number know person(s) as for  
 少ない のに...  
*sukunai noni.*  
 are few even though  
**"Even though people who know this number are few."**  
**"But hardly anyone knows this number."** (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** もしもーし。  
*Moshi-mōshi.*  
**"Hello?"** (PL2-3)

4 **Buchō:** こら! 両津、勝手に 休むな!  
*Kora! Ryōtsu, Katte ni yasumu na!*  
 (scolding) (name) on own don't take day off  
**"Hey! Ryōtsu, don't take a day off without asking."**  
**"Hey! Ryōtsu, who told you you could have the day off?"** (PL2)

- *kora* is an interjection for scolding. When it comes first, it's like "Hey!/Stop that!/Cut it out!"
- *katte ni* means "on one's own/without (asking) permission."

5 **Ryōtsu:** この 番号、なぜ 知ってる んです?  
*Kono bangō, naze shitteru n desu?*  
 this number why know (explan.)  
**"Why do you know this number?"**  
**"How did you find out this number?"** (PL3)

**Buchō:** お前 の 事 など お見とおし だ!  
*Omae no koto nado o-mitōshi da!*  
 you of things as for (hon.)-seen through is  
**"I see through everything about you!"**  
**"I know everything about you."** (PL2)

- *mitōshi* is a noun form of *mitōsu* ("see through [something]"); for this use, it usually gets the honorific prefix *o-* regardless of the politeness level being used. *O-mitōshi da* = "[it] is seen through" → "I see through [it]."

6 **Buchō:** さぼってないで 出勤...  
*Sabottenaide shukkin—*  
 don't be goofing off come to work  
**"Stop goofing off and get yourself in here!"** (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** この!  
*Kono!*  
 this  
**"You..."** (PL1-2)

**Sound FX:** ピッ  
*Pi!*  
**Dit** (pushing "end" button on cell phone to hang up on Buchō)

- *sabottenaide* is a contraction of *sabotte inaide*, a negative *-te* form of *sabotte iru* ("is goofing off"), from *saboru*, which means to "skip school/work" altogether or to "goof off" when one is supposed to be working/studying. Using the negative *-te* form here gives the meaning "without/instead of goofing off, [do the following action]."
- in contentious situations, *kono* (lit. "this") can be used like an epithet or expletive.

7 **Ryōtsu:** 全く! うるさい!  
*Mattaku! Urusai!*  
 completely noisy/annoying  
**"Cripes, what a pain!"** (PL1-2)

**Sound FX:** ウイイイ  
*Uiii*  
**Rrreeeee** (whir of fax machine motor)

**Ryōtsu:** ん?  
*N?*  
 (interj.)  
**"Hunh?"** (PL2)

- *mattaku* (lit. "completely/entirely") is often used as an exclamation of exasperation.
- *urusai* (lit. "noisy") has such idiomatic meanings as "troublesome/pesky/annoying/obnoxious."

8 **Ryōtsu:** ああつ! ファックス で!  
*Ā! Fakkusu de!*  
 (exclam.) fax by  
**"Yikes! Now it's by fax!"** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ウイイン  
*Uiin*  
**Rrreeeee** (whir of fax machine motor)

**Fax:** 両津 の バカ。早く もどれ。  
*Ryōtsu no baka. Hayaku modore.*  
 (name) (=) idiot/fool quickly return  
**"Ryōtsu, you twit. Get back here right now!"** (PL2)

- *hayaku* is the adverb form of *hayai* ("quick/fast"), and *modore* is the abrupt command form of *modoru* ("return").





- 1 **Ryōtsu:** くそ!! やりやがった な!  
*Kuso! Yari-yagatta na!*  
 (curse) did-(derog.) (colloq.)  
**"Dammit! Now he's done it!"** (PL1)
- Ryōtsu:** 部長め! くそ!!  
*Buchō-me, kuso!*  
 dept. head-(derog.) (curse)  
**"That bleeping boss! Dammit!"** (PL1)
- Sound FX:** ウイーン  
*Uiin*  
**Rrreeee** (whir of fax machine motor)
- Fax:** 早く もどれ!! 大バカ野郎!  
*Hayaku modore! Ō-bakayarō!*  
 quickly return great idiot/fool  
**Get back here now, you big idiot!** (PL1)
- (partly hidden) (俺) に 発信機 など つけるな!  
*(Ore) ni hashshinki nado tsukeru na!*  
 I/me on transmitter thing like don't attach  
**Don't put transmitters on me!** (PL2)
- 中川 から 聞いた。  
*Nakagawa kara kiita.*  
 (name) from heard  
**I heard [all about that] from Nakagawa.** (PL2)
- 両津 の バカ。 早く もどれ。  
*Ryōtsu no baka. Hayaku modore.*  
 (name) (=) idiot/fool quickly return  
**Ryōtsu, you twit. Get back here right now!** (PL1)

- *kuso* (lit. "excrement") is widely used as a curse of chagrin, but it's not considered as offensive as its English counterparts.
- *yari* is the stem of *yaru* ("do"), and *-yagatta* is the abrupt past form of the derogatory/insulting suffix *-yagaru*.
- *-me* after a word referring to a person shows contempt/derision/anger directed at that person.
- *tsukeru* = "attach" and *na* after a plain non-past verb can make a prohibition/negative command, "don't ~."
- *kiita* is the plain/abrupt past form of *kiku* ("hear").

- 2 **Cop:** 何 を してる んだ、君!  
*Nani o shiteru n da, kimi!*  
 what (obj.) are doing (explan.) you  
**"What's going on here, mister?"** (PL2)
- Ryōtsu:** いや、別に 何も!  
*Iya, betsu-ni nani mo!*  
 (interj.) [not] particularly nothing/anything  
**"Uhh, nothing."** (PL2)
- Sound FX:** ガサ ウイーン ウイーン  
*Gasa Uiin Uiin*  
 (rustling of fax paper and whir of fax machine motor)

- *shiteru* is a contraction of *shite iru* ("is/are doing"), from *suru* ("do"). Asking a question with *da* is mostly masculine, and can sound quite rough.
- *betsu-ni* combines with a negative to mean "not particularly," and *nanimo* works together with a negative to mean "not anything/nothing." The implicit negative here is *shite inai*, negative of *shite iru*.

- 3 **Ryōtsu:** ファックス の スイッチ は 中 か!  
*Fakkusu no suitchi wa naka ka!*  
 fax for switch as for inside (?)  
**"The fax switch must be inside!"** (PL2)
- Ryōtsu:** くそ! ロック を 解く には...  
*Kuso! Rokku o toku ni wa...*  
 (curse) lock (obj.) open in order to  
**"Dammit! To open the lock..."** (PL1)

- 3 (continued)
- *ka* literally makes a question, "Is the switch for the fax inside?" But the question form is often used rhetorically when observing/confirming something for oneself, with the feeling of "So it's ~, is it?/I guess/it seems."
  - *ni wa* after a verb means "in order to [do the action]/for [doing the action]."

- 4 **Ryōtsu:** あっ!  
*A!*  
**"Oh no!"** (PL2)
- Display:** 音声 ロック  
*Onsei rokku*  
 sound lock  
**Audio Lock**
- 5 **Ryōtsu:** 音声 リモコン に 切り換わった。  
*Onsei rimokon ni kirikawatta.*  
 sound remote control to switched  
**"It switched to audio control."** (PL2)
- Ryōtsu:** 笛 で 開ける しかない!  
*Fue de akeru shika nai!*  
 flute with open only  
**"I'll have to open it using the flute."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ガサ ガサ ガサ ウイーン  
*Gasa gasa gasa Uiin*  
 (rustling of fax paper and whir of fax machine motor)

- Fax:** 何 考えて 生きて(いるんだ)?  
 (partly hidden) *Nani kangaete ikite (irun da)?*  
 what thinking are living  
**"You are living thinking of what?"**  
**"What are you thinking?!"** (PL2)

- *kirikawatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *kirikawaru* ("[something] switches over"). *Ni* marks *onsei rimokon* as the result of the switch/change.
- *shika nai* after a non-past verb or action noun implies that action is the only option.
- *kangaete* is the *-te* form of *kangaeru* ("think"); *o*, to mark *nani* as the direct object of *kangaeru*, has been omitted.
- *ikite* is the *-te* form of *ikiru* ("live"). We can assume the hidden part contains a form of *ikite iru* ("is/are living").

- 6 **Ryōtsu:** 確か、 ドミソド...  
*Tashika, do-mi-so-do...*  
 quite sure C-E-G-C  
**"I think it was C-E-G-C..."** (PL2)
- Ryōtsu:** 違った か? ドミソドレ...  
*Chigatta ka? Do-mi-so-do-re...*  
 different/wrong (?) C-E-G-C-D  
**"Or was it? Then C-E-G-C-D..."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピロ〜ヒヨロロ〜ピュロロ〜  
*Piro- hyororo- pyuroro-*  
 (sound of recorder)

**Sound FX:** ガサ ガサ ガサ ウイーン  
*Gasa gasa gasa Uiin*  
 (rustling of fax paper and whir of fax machine motor)

- Fax:** ばか に つける (薬 は ない).  
 (partly hidden) *Baka ni tsukeru (kusuri wa nai).*  
 fool/idiot to apply medicine as for not exist  
**"Salve to apply to a fool doesn't exist."**  
**"There's no cure for stupidity."** (PL2)

- when *tashika* is used as an adverb without the particle *ni* after it like this, it implies "I think/if I'm not mistaken/I'm

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[6] (continued from previous page)

pretty sure.”

- *chigatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *chigau*, which literally means “differs/is different,” but often implies “is wrong/mistaken/a misunderstanding.” In the next frame it’s used to mean “you have the wrong idea/you’re jumping to the wrong conclusion.”
- *baka ni tsukeru* is a complete thought/sentence (“attach/apply to a fool”) modifying *kusuri* (“medicine,” here limited to the kind of medicine that can be “applied,” such as “ointment/salve”).

[7] **Foreigner:** ワンダフル パフォーマンス!  
*Wandafuru pafōmansu!*  
“Wonderful performance!” (PL2)

**Sound FX:** チャリン  
*Charin*  
**Plink** (sound of coin hitting the ground)

**Ryōtsu:** 違う!  
*Chigau!*  
“You’ve got the wrong idea!” (PL2)

**Fax:** 給料 へらす ぞ。  
*Kyūryō herasu zo.*  
salary/pay will reduce (emph.)  
“I’ll cut your pay.” (PL2)

[1] **Ryōtsu:** ふう、何とか止まった!  
*Fū, nantoka tomatta!*  
(sigh) somehow or other stopped  
“Whew, it finally stopped.” (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ルルルル  
*Ru ru ru ru*  
(ringing of cell phone)

**Ryōtsu:** ん?  
*N?*  
“Hunh?” (PL2)

- *fū* represents blowing one’s breath out forcefully through rounded lips; typically it’s a sigh of relief or fatigue, “whew!”
- *tomatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tomaru* (“[something] stops/halts”).
- *n* pronounced with the rising intonation of a question implies the speaker has suddenly noticed or realized something.

[2] **Ryōtsu:** はい、もしもし!  
*Hai, moshi-moshi!*  
yes hello  
“Hello?” (PL3)

- *moshi-moshi* can be used as “hello” either by the person initiating a phone call or by the person answering, but in the latter case it would normally, as here, be preceded by *hai* (which often effectively serves as “hello” all by itself).

[3] **Other Party:** たぬきそば 3つ ね!  
*Tanuki soba mittsu ne!*  
(noodle dish name) three (colloq.)  
“I’d like 3 bowls of *tanuki soba*.” (PL2)

- *tanuki* means “raccoon dog,” and *soba* refers to “buckwheat noodles,” so *tanuki soba* is literally “raccoon dog noodles.” It refers to a bowl of buckwheat noodles in a soy sauce flavored broth, topped with bits of deep-fried tempura batter.

[4] **Ryōtsu:** ふざけるな、くそ!  
*Fuzakeru na, kuso!*  
don’t fool/joke around (curse)  
“Don’t play games with me, dammit!” (PL1)

**Sound FX:** ガッ  
*Ga!*  
(sound of attaché case bouncing off ground)

- *fuzakeru* basically means “fool around/joke around,” and *na* after the plain, dictionary form of a verb can make a prohibition/negative command, so *fuzakeru na* = “don’t fool around/stop joking around.” *Fuzakeru na* usually falls into the category of “fighting words,” so its English equivalents range from “cut the crap!/don’t play games with me!” to unprintable expletives and epithets.

[5] **Ryōtsu:** あっ! 壊すとやばい!  
*A!, kowasu to yabai!*  
(interj.) if break troublesome/dangerous  
“Oh no, if I break it, I’m in trouble!” (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピーピーピー  
*Pii pii pii*  
**Beeeeep beeeep beeeep** (electronic alarm)

[6] **Sound FX:** ウウー ウウー  
*Uuu— Uu—*  
(sound of siren)

**Attaché:** ドロボウ! ドロボウ!  
*Dorobō! Dorobō!*  
“Thief! Thief!” (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** あっ、警報が!  
*A!, keihō ga!*  
(exclam.) warning/alarm (subj.)  
“Yikes, the alarm!” (PL2)

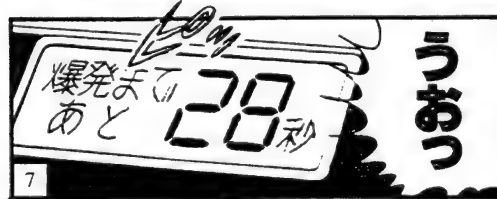
[7] **Ryōtsu:** おい! こら、止まれ!  
*Oi! kora, tomare!*  
hey (scolding) stop  
“Hey! Come on! Stop!” (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ウウ、ウーウー  
*Uu, u— u—*  
(siren)

**Ryōtsu:** 本人だ! ご主人だぞ!  
*Honnin da! Go-shujin da zo!*  
the person himself is (hon.)-master/owner is(emph.)  
“I’m the right one! I’m your owner!” (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** くそ! 今のショックで壊れた!!  
*Kuso! Ima no shokku de kowareta!!*  
(curse) now of shock by broke  
“Blast it! It broke from the impact!” (PL1)

- *tomare* is the abrupt command form of *tomaru* (“stop/cease/halt”).
- *honnin* (“the person himself”) here implies “the right person.”
- *de* marks *shokku* (“shock” → “impact”) as the means of the following action—how it occurred.
- *kowareta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *kowareru* (“[something] breaks”). Compare this with *kowasu*, above, which means “break [something].”





1 **Sound FX:** ガンシャ  
Gasha  
**Kachunk** (handle clamping down on his hand)

**Ryōtsu:** げっ!  
Ge!  
(grunt)  
"Urk!"

2 **Ryōtsu:** あいたた! 手 が ぬけない!  
Aitata! Te ga nukenai!  
(exclam.) hand (subj.) not come out  
"Ouch! My hand doesn't come out!"  
"Ouch! I can't get my hand out!" (PL2)

**Attaché:** 本人 以外 ノ 指紋 ト 断定。  
Honin igai no shimon to dantei.  
the person other than 's fingerprints(quote)conclu.  
"Fingerprints determined to be other than the owner's." (PL2)

- *aitata* is a colloquial variation of *itai* ("hurt[s]") used as an exclamation: "Ouch!/Ow!"
- *nukenai* is the negative form of *nukeru* ("[something] comes/slips out").
- *dantei* = "conclusion," and *dantei suru* is its verb form, "conclude/determine," but in this case *dantei* by itself is acting as a verb. The quotative *to*, marks *honin igai no shimon* as the content/specific nature of the conclusion reached.

3 **Attaché:** 機密 データ 保護 ノ タメ  
Kimitsu dēta hogo no tame  
secret/classified data protection of purpose  
一分 後 爆破シマス!  
ippun-go bakuha shimasu!  
1 min. later/hence will blow up  
"In order to protect classified data, will self-destruct in 1 minute." (PL3)

**Ryōtsu:** なん だ と?!  
Nan da to?!  
what is (quote)  
"What?!" (PL1-2)

- *no tame (ni)* means "for the purpose of/in order to."
- *-go* after a time word means "[that much time] later/from now."
- *bakuha shimasu* is the PL3 form of *bakuha suru* (lit. "destroy by explosion" → "blow up").
- *nan da to* is a very rough way of challenging/questioning what has just been said, or of expressing outrage at it.

4 **Sound FX:** カシャ  
Kasha  
**Click** (shutter-like click of count-down timer appearing in display)

**Timer:** 爆発 まで あと 60 秒。  
Bakuatsu made ato rokujū byō.  
explosion until remaining 60 seconds  
60 seconds to detonation

- *ato* before a time word means "[that much time] remains/is left."

5 **Ryōtsu:** ふざけるな、こら!  
Fuzakeru na, kora!  
don't fool/joke around (interj.)  
"This isn't funny. Dammit!" (PL2)

**Attaché:** アト 50 秒。  
Ato gojū byō.  
remaining 50 seconds  
"50 seconds remaining." (PL1-2)

5 (continued)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
Pi! pi!  
**Dit dit** (electronic tones ticking off the seconds)

- when *kora!*, the interjection for scolding seen above, comes at the end of the sentence, it often has more the feeling of an expletive/epithet.

6 **Ryōtsu:** 本人 だ と 言ってる だろ。 / おい!  
Honin da to itteru daro. / Oi!  
the person is (quote) am saying right? hey  
"I told you I'm the right person, didn't I? Hey!" (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
Pi! pi!  
**Dit dit** (electronic ticks)

**Attaché:** アト 30 秒。  
Ato sanjū byō.  
remaining 30 seconds  
"30 seconds remaining." (PL2)

**Ryōtsu:** くそ! 手 が はずれない!  
Kuso! Te ga hazurenai!  
(curse) hand (subj.) not come off  
"Dadblame it! My hand doesn't come off."  
"Dadblame it! I can't get my hand loose." (PL1)

- *hazurenai* is the negative of *hazureru* ("come off/become detached").

7 **Sound FX:** ピッ  
Pi!  
**Dit** (electronic tick)  
**Timer:** 爆発 まで あと 28 秒。  
Bakuatsu made ato nijūhachi byō.  
explosion until remaining 28 seconds  
28 seconds to detonation

**Ryōtsu:** うおっ!  
Uo!  
(exclam.)  
"Yikes!" (PL2)

8 **Ryōtsu:** あと 20 秒 しかない!  
Ato nijū byō shika nai!  
remaining 20 seconds only  
"Only 20 seconds left!" (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
Pi! pi!  
**Dit dit** (electronic ticks)

**Ryōtsu:** こんな 人ごみ で 爆発したら  
Konna hitogomi de bakuatsu shitara  
this kind of crowd in if explodes  
大変 だ!  
taihen da!  
terrible/catastrophic is  
"It'll be a disaster if it blows up in a crowd like this!" (PL2)

- *bakuatsu shitara* is a conditional ("if/when") form of *bakuatsu suru* ("explode").
- *taihen* refers to a "serious/terrible/catastrophic" situation.



1 **Ryōtsu:** そう だ! / この 中 に!  
*Sō da! Kono naka ni!*  
 that way is this inside into  
 "I know! I'll go inside this."  
**"I know! I'll crawl in here."** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ガラン  
*Garan*  
**Clang** (sound from lifting manhole cover)

**Sound FX:** ピッピッ  
*Pi! Pi!*  
**Dit dit** (electronic ticks)

- *sō da* is literally "it is so/it is that way," but it's used idiomatically like "Oh, I know/Oh, that's right/Oh, yeah" when you have a sudden thought/idea.

2 **Ryōtsu:** なんで こんな 目 に?! / くそ!  
*Nande konna me ni?! / Kuso!*  
 why this kind of experience to (curse)  
**"Why is this happening to me? Cripes!"**  
 (PL1)

**Sound FX:** ガチャッ  
*Gacha!*  
**Clank** (sound of manhole cover closing)

- *nande* is a colloquial *naze* ("why").
- *me* = "eye," but in the expression *me ni au* it means "experience/treatment." In this case, some form of *au* ("meet/encounter") is understood without being explicitly stated. *Konna me* = "this kind of experience/treatment," so *Nande konna me ni au?* is literally "Why do I encounter/receive this kind of bad experience/treatment?"

3 **Sound FX:** ドゴオン  
*Dogōn*  
**Kaboom** (sound of explosion)

**Ryōtsu:** ぐえ!  
*Gue!*  
 (grunt)  
**"Urghh!"**

**Sound FX:** ビシビシ  
*Bishi bishi*  
**Snap snap** (sparks from explosion)

4 **"Sound" FX:** フッ  
*Fu!*  
**Puff** (effect of screen icon going out)

**Nakagawa:** あれ?  
*Are?*  
 (interj.)  
**"Huh?"** (PL2)

- *are?* is an interjection of surprise/bewilderment/confusion: "Huh?/What?/What's that?"

5 **Nakagawa:** 先輩 の トランク が 消えてしまった。  
*Senpai no toranku ga kiete shimatta.*  
 senior of trunk/attaché (subj.)disappeared-(unexp.)  
**"Ryōtsu's case disappeared."** (PL2)

**Buchō:** あいつめ!  
*Aitsu-me!*  
 that guy-(derog.)  
**"That S.O.B."** (PL1)

どんな 手 を 使った んだ?  
*Donna te o tsukatta n da?*  
 what kind of method/trick (obj.) used (explan.)  
 "What method did he use?"  
**"How'd he do that?"** (PL2)

- *kiete* is the *-te* form of *kieru* ("disappear/vanish/go out"),

5 (continued)

and *shimatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *shimau* ("end/finish/put away"), which after the *-te* form of a verb can mean the action is/was abrupt and unexpected.

- *aitsu-me* is from *aitsu* ("that guy") plus the derogatory ending *-me*: "that jerk/S.O.B."
- *te* (lit. "hand") can refer to a "method/means/trick," and *tsukatta* is the plain/abrupt past form of *tsukau* ("use"). *Donna te o tsukatta* implies the boss thinks Ryōtsu is deliberately trying to give them the slip.
- asking a question with *n da* is masculine and can sound rough.

6

**Boy:** 自爆 装置 が ついている  
*Jibaku sōchi ga tsuite iru*  
 self-destruction device (subj.) is attached

と は 知りませんでした。  
*to wa shirimasen deshita.*  
 (quote) as for didn't know

**"I didn't know it had a self-destruct device."** (PL3)

**Ryōtsu:** 危なくて モニター など  
*Abunakute monitā nado*  
 dangerous-(cause) tester something like

やってられん!

*yatteraren!*

can't be doing/working as

"It's so dangerous I can't be working as a product tester."

**"It's too dangerous. Forget being a product tester!"** (PL2)

スパイ じゃない んだ ぞ。

*Supai ja nai n da zo.*

spy am not (explan.) (emph.)

**"I'm not a spy, you know."** (PL2)

やりすぎ だ。 もう や だ!

*Yarisugi da. Mō ya da!*

doing to excess is now distasteful is

**"It's too much. I've had enough!"** (PL2)

**Nakagawa:** さすがに お金 より  
*Sasuga ni o-kane yori*  
 (emph.) (hon.)-money more than

体 の 方 が 大事 みたいだ。

*karada no hō ga daiji mitai da.*

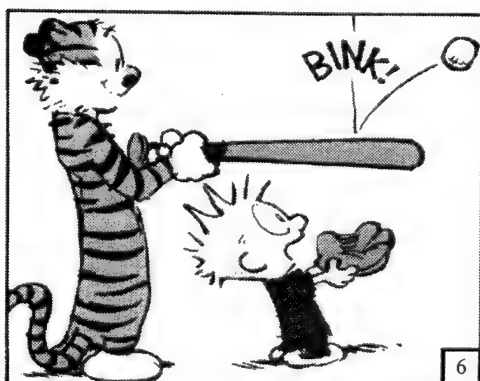
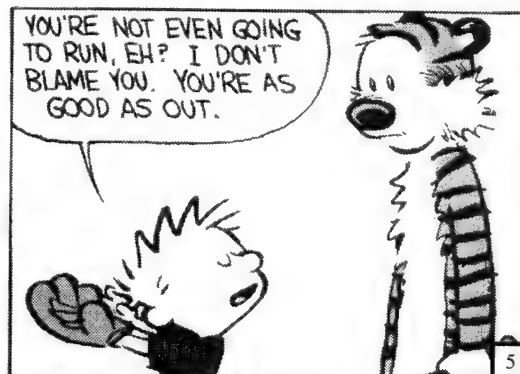
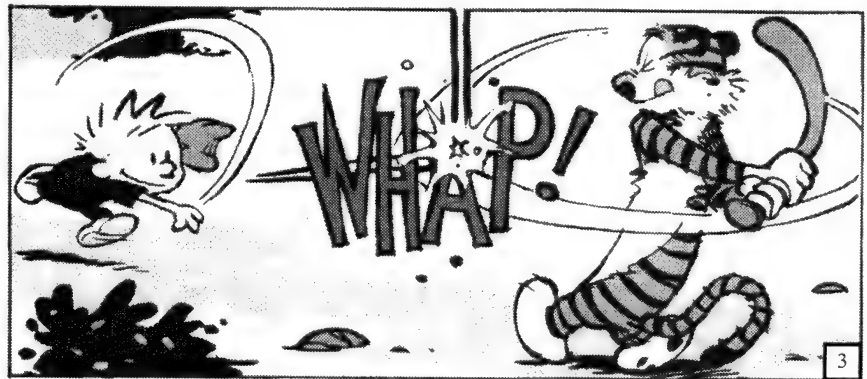
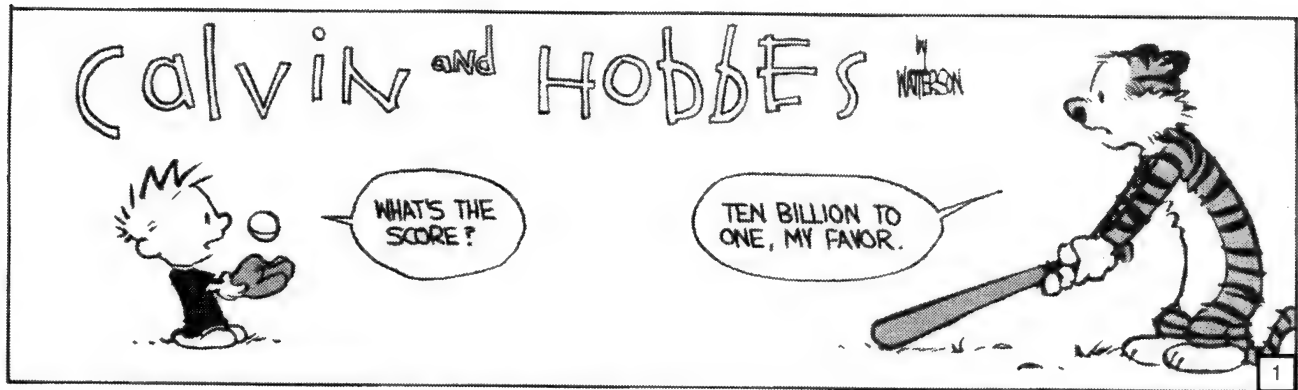
body of side (subj.) precious it seems

"Even he seems to value his body more than money."

**"I guess even Ryōtsu values his health more than money."** (PL2)

- *shirimasen deshita* is the past form of *shirimasen* ("not know"), PL3 negative of *shiru* ("come to know"). *To* marks the complete thought/sentence *jibaku sōchi ga tsuite iru* ("A self-destruct device is attached") as the content/specific nature of what was not known.
- *abunakute* is the *-te* form of *abunai* ("dangerous"); the *-te* form is here being used to indicate the cause of what follows: "because it's dangerous, . . ."
- *yatteraren* is a contraction of *yatte irarenai*, negative of *yatte irareru* ("can be doing"), which is the potential form of *yatte iru* ("is doing"), from *yaru* ("do").
- *sasuga* here gives special emphasis to the understood subject, Ryōtsu: "even he . . ."
- *~ yori ~ no hō ga* makes a comparison, with *yori* following the lesser item and *no hō ga* following the greater.





- 1 **Calvin:** "What's the score?"  
何対何 だっけ?  
*Nan tai nan dakke?*  
what-to-what is it?
- Hobbes:** "Ten billion to one, my favor."  
百億対一 で 僕 が 勝ってる。  
*Hyakuoku tai ichi de boku ga katteru.*  
ten billion-to-one is-and I (subj) am winning
- 2 **Calvin:** "It is not!"  
嘘つけ!  
*Uso tsuke!*  
tell a lie
- Hobbes:** "Then keep track yourself."  
じゃあ、自分で点 付けたら  
*Jā, jibun de ten tsuketara.*  
well/then by self score why don't you keep
- 3 **Sound FX:** Whap!  
カーン  
*Kān*
- 4 **Calvin:** "Ha! It went straight up! Easy out! Easy out!"  
やった! 真っすぐ 上がった ぞ! 楽勝 アウト!  
*Yatta! Massugu agatta zo! Rakushō auto!*  
did it straight went up (emph.) easy win out
- Ha! 短い笑い。ここではカルヴィンがほくそ笑む様子を表わす。
  - Yatta!, literally "I did it!" is a very loose translation for "Ha!," but it's what Calvin's Japanese counterpart would probably say in a situation like this.
- 5 **Calvin:** "You're not even going to run, eh?"  
へえ、走らない の?  
*Hē, hashiranai no?*  
(interj.) not run (explan.-?)
- "I don't blame you. You're as good as out."  
ま、アウト になる に決まってる から、分かる けど。  
*Ma, auto ni naru ni kimatteru kara, wakaru kedo.*  
(interj.) out will become is decided because understand though/but
- "not even run" is literally 走りもしない (*hashiri mo shina*). In this particular context, however, we felt that it sounded a little unnatural, and went with a simpler translation.
  - eh? 文末に付けて「え? / ん?」のように付加疑問文的に念を押すときなどに使う。「Huh?」のバリエーション。
  - blame = 「非難する」だが、「I don't blame you」は、「君の状況を察するよ」といった意味合いで使われる。
  - as good as [out] = (アウトになった) も同然。
- 6 **Sound FX:** Bink!  
コン。  
*Kon.*
- 7 **Calvin:** "You can't DO that!"  
そんな の ルール 違反 だ ぞ!  
*Sonna no rūrū ihan da zo!*  
that kind of one/thing rule violation is (emph.)
- Hobbes:** "That's two hits on one pitch! This run counts double!"  
一投 二打 だから、一周 で 二点 だ!  
*Ittō nida dakara, issū de niten da!*  
1 pitch 2 hits so once around with 2 points is
- "You can't do that" would literally be 「そんなことをしてはいけない」 → 「そんなのダメだよ/そんなのずるいぞ」。Again, we went with a more natural sounding translation.



# BASIC JAPANESE through comics

## Lesson 56 • Dame: An objectionable word

The Japanese have a reputation for never saying “no,” but *dame* is a word for saying just that, and in a forceful way. Different from *iie* (いいえ, “no”), *dame* is more of a rejection of a request, offer, or proposal. It can also be a declaration that something will not work out because it is no good, useless, or impossible.

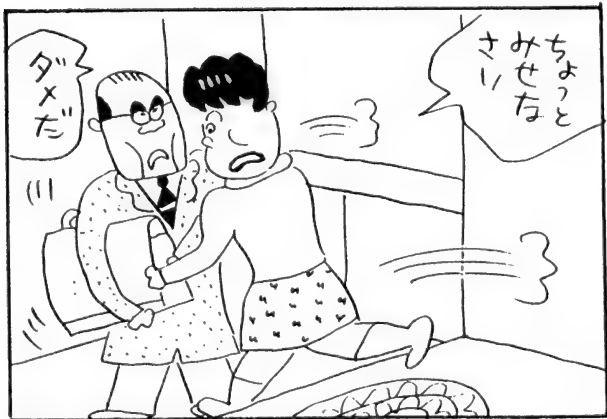
When used to describe a person, *dame* means “worthless” or “good for nothing.” When *dame* follows a verb in the *-te* form and the particle *wa*, it takes on the meaning of “shouldn’t” or “mustn’t”; *-te wa dame* can be a method of chiding or giving advice as well as outright prohibition.

*Dame* can be heard in anything from a simple statement to an angry tirade, its causticity depending on the tone of voice. However, the word does not often appear in formal, polite conversation. In such cases, *ikemasen*, which has much the same meaning as *dame*, is generally used instead.

In most of the following examples, *dame* is written in hiragana, but katakana is used in some cases to set the word off from the rest of the sentence and emphasize it. You may also see the word written in its kanji form: 駄目.

### No!

This salaryman is about to leave on a business trip when his wife notices that his briefcase is unusually bulky. She asks what’s in it, but he balks at revealing that he packed the heavy metal *sukiyaki* pan to prevent the rest of the family from enjoying his favorite dinner while he is away.



© Shōji Sadao / Sarariiman Senka, Kodansha

**Wife:** ちょっと みせなさい。

Chotto misenasai.  
a little show it-(command)

“Show that to me a little.”

“**Let me see that a minute.**” (PL2)

**Husband:** だめ だ。

Dame da.  
no/bad is  
“**No!**” (PL2)

- *misenasai* is a relatively gentle command form of the verb *miseru* (“show”).

## No way!

Fuwa's apartment temporarily became his company's office space when an earthquake struck their office building. Some six people work in the apartment by day while by night, Fuwa shares the apartment with Izumi, a homeless teenager whom he has befriended. Now Tokiko, a former girlfriend, wants to move in with her husband because they lost their home when his business failed—an idea to which Fuwa is strongly opposed.



© Hoshisato Michiru / Ribingu Gēmu, Shogakukan

**Izumi:** うー...  
U—...  
(groan of anger)

**Fuwa:** だめ だ! だめっ!  
Dame da! Dame!!  
no/bad is no/bad  
“No! No way!!” (PL2)

**Tokiko:** あ、 そう...  
A, sō...  
(interj.) that way  
“Oh, is that so?”  
“Oh...” (PL2)

- the small つ after the second *dame* indicates that the sound is cut off sharply.
- the う in Izumi's groan is written in a “cute” style that became popular among high school students a few years ago.

## No, don't!

Not understanding how large stores can offer such big discounts on appliances, the young sales representative Minamida pays a visit to an electronics store. He is alarmed to find that even his own company's newly developed electric heaters are on sale. A salesman, unaware that Minamida is a vendor, is now offering to slash the price even lower.



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**Salesman:** どう です? これ で...  
Dō desu? Kore de...  
how is this with  
“How about at this price?” (PL2)

**Sound FX:** ピッ ポッ ピッ  
Pi! Po! Pi!  
(sound of calculator buttons)

**Minamida:** だ、 だめ だ よ!  
Da- dame da yo!  
(stammer) no/bad is (emph.)  
“N- no, don't!” (PL2)

- the salesman's sentence is a case of inverted syntax. Normal order would be: これでどうです? *Ka* has been left out.

## It's no use!

Yōsuke is doing his best to learn how to stand up and walk, but his legs are not quite ready for it. He expresses his frustration.

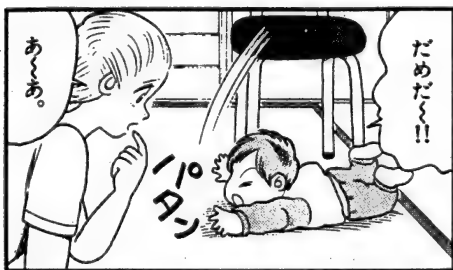


**Yōsuke:** だ...だ...  
*Da... da...*  
 (stammer)  
**"It's... it's..."**  
 だめ だー!!  
*dame da!!*  
 bad/no good is  
**"it's no use!!"** (PL2)

**Sound FX:** パタン  
*Patan*  
 (sound of child hitting floor)

**Mother:** あーあ。  
*Ā-a*  
**"Oh dear."**

- ā-a is an interjection of disappointment/lament/sympathy.



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## I can't

Minamida has just told his girlfriend Kizaki that he has been transferred to work at a different location. Kizaki lightly says she may also move to be with him, but she then offers an excuse.



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**Kizaki:** でも お仕事 ある から だめ ね...  
*Demo o-shigoto aru kara dame ne...*  
 but (hon.)-work have because/so no good/impossible (colloq.)  
**"But I have work (here), so I guess I can't."** (PL2)

**Minamida:** そ、 そう だ ね...  
*So- sō da ne...*  
 (stammer) that way/so is (colloq.)  
**"R- right, I guess not..."** (PL2)

- *o-shigoto* is a polite, feminine way of saying "work."
- *sō da ne* (lit. "it's that way, isn't it") serves broadly to express agreement/affirmation: "yeah/right/that's true."

## Don't

A father and his son have asked a baseball player for an autograph—his “sign” (サイン, *sain*). The player complies but has unusual instructions for the father and son.



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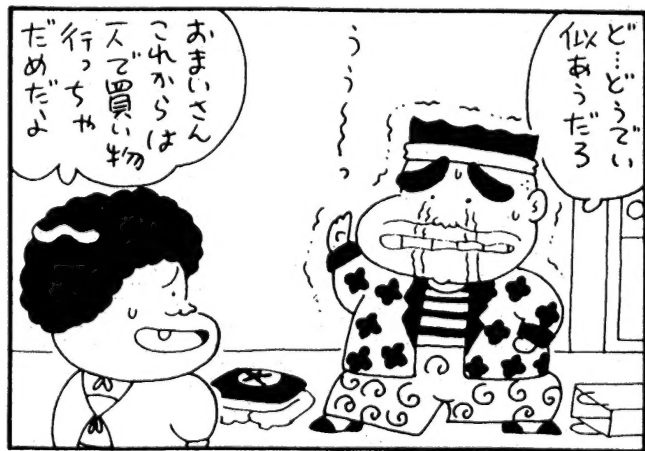
**Baseball player:** 人に見せちゃダメよ。  
*Hito ni misecha dame yo.*  
 people to if show is no good (emph.)  
**“Don’t show that to other people, now.”**  
 (PL2)

- *misecha dame* is a contraction of *misete wa dame*, from *miseru* (“show [to someone]”).
- *sain* (the katakana rendering of English “sign”) by itself most commonly means “signature/autograph” in Japanese, but it can also mean “signal,” such as the kind given by catchers and coaches in baseball, and that is the source of humor here. The word is rarely used to mean “sign/signboard.”

The *-te wa dame* form of a verb makes a prohibition/negative command: “don’t ~/you mustn’t ~/you shouldn’t ~.” In informal speech this often becomes *-cha dame* or *-ja dame*.

## Shouldn't

Beranmei Tōchan has just returned from a shopping trip to buy “Casual Day” work clothes. He realizes now that his purchases seem odd, and he tries to maintain a stiff upper lip about it, but he knows he has blown it and starts to fall apart. Both characters speak in the Shitamachi dialect characteristic of residents of old Tokyo.



© Tachibanaya Kikutarō / Beranmei Tōchan, Take Shobo

**Tōchan:** ど、どうでい？ 似あう だろ。  
*Do- dō dei? Niau daro.*  
 (stammer) how is it? fitting/suitable right?  
**“Wh- what do you think? It suits me, don’t you think?”** (PL2)

**Tōchan:** うーっ  
*U ū*  
 (moaning/whimpering sound)

**Wife:** おまいさん、これから は 一人で  
*Omai-san, korekara wa hitori de*  
 (name) from now as for by oneself  
 買い物 行っちゃ だめ だ よ。  
*kaimono itcha dame da yo.*  
 shopping if go is no good is (emph.)  
**“You shouldn’t go shopping alone anymore, dear.”** (PL2)

- *dei* is the Shitamachi dialect equivalent of *da*. Asking a question with *da* is typically masculine, abrupt speech.
- *daro* is short for *darō*, an informal, abrupt form of *deshō*.
- *Omai-san* is this woman’s nickname for her husband, a Shitamachi corruption of *omae-san* (“you”-inf.-hon.)

## Mustn't

Despite the doctor's assurance that his health problem is minor, this man insists on taking the strictest of precautions.



© Shōji Sadao / Sarariiman Senka, Kodansha

**Man:** あ、酒 ダメ。痔 によくない から。  
*A, sake dame. Ji ni yokunai kara.*  
 (interj.) alcohol no good hemorrhoids for not good because  
**"Oh, I mustn't have sake. Alcohol isn't good for hemorrhoids."** (PL2)

- the particle *wa* is omitted after *sake*.
- *yokunai* is the negative form of *ii/yoi* ("good/fine").
- his syntax is inverted; normal order would be *ji ni yokunai kara sake (wa) dame*.

## Unacceptable

In his drive for advancement, Suguru has become short-tempered about the smallest of errors committed by his subordinates. Here he has asked an OL to make some copies for him.



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**Suguru:** だめ じゃない か!  
*Dame ja nai ka!*  
 no good is not (?)  
 "This is no good, is it not?"  
**"This is unacceptable!"** (PL2)  
 コピーに 抜け が あった ぞ!!  
*Kopii ni nuke ga atta zo!*  
 copy in gaps (subj.) existed (emph.)  
 "In the copying, there were gaps."  
**"You missed some pages!"** (PL2)

- *dame ja nai ka* is obviously spoken very sharply, nothing like the tame-sounding question the literal translation suggests. The question is purely rhetorical, and he is in fact declaring in no uncertain terms that "[The job you did] is no good!" → "This is unacceptable/inexcusable!"
- *kopii* is the katakana rendering of the English "copy."
- *nuke* is a noun form of *nukeru* ("be left out/omitted").



## Worthless

Michiru has been living in a worker's dorm where he had hoped the bullying he had experienced in high school would end. It hasn't, however, and he feels that he can't take it anymore.



**Michiru:** だけど いっしょ さ...  
*Dakedo issho sa...*  
 but same (colloq.)

**"But (wherever I go) it's the same..." (PL2)**

ぼく は どこ へ 行っても ダメな 奴 なんだ よ...  
*Boku wa doko e itte mo dame na yatsu na n da yo...*  
 I (subj.) where to even if go no-good guy (explan.) (emph.)

**"Wherever I go, I'm just a worthless guy." (PL2)**

- *issho* can mean "together" or "the same"; here it's the latter.
- *doko* ("where") plus a *-te/-de mo* form means "anywhere/wherever."
- adding *-na* makes *dame* into a modifier for *yatsu*.
- *yatsu* is an informal/slang word for "person," often with a derogatory feeling; Michiru's use of the word here reflects his low opinion of himself.

## It's all over!

The desperately hungry Shin-chan has just had a scare from reading on the label of a bowl of instant *yakisoba* that it contained かやく (*kayaku*). He mistakenly assumes the hiragana word means 火薬 (*kayaku*, "gunpowder"), when actually it means 加薬 (*kayaku*, "spices/flavorings"). The situation has left him shaken.



**Shin-chan:** もう だめ だ。バクハツしちゃうし  
*Mō dame da. Bakuhatsu shichau shi*  
 already no good is will explode-(regret)-and

**"It's no good. [The yakisoba] is going to explode and  
 'It's all over! Not only is the yakisoba going to explode,**

おなか も すきすぎて ぜったい 死んじゃうー。  
*Onaka mo sukisugite zettai shinjau-*  
 stomach as well is too empty-and certainly will die-(regret)

**"my stomach is so empty that I'll die for sure!" (PL2)**

- *shichau* is a contraction of *shite shimau*, and *shinjau* is a contraction of *shinde shimau*, from *suru* ("do") and *shinu* ("die") respectively. The *-te/-de shimau* form of a verb implies the action is undesirable/regrettable.
- *suki-sugite* is a combination of *suku* ("to become empty") and the *-te* form of *sugiru*, which as a verb suffix implies the action occurs "too much/excessively."



# vocabulary summary

## From *Aji Ichi Monme*, p. 25

生む	umu	give birth
語る	kataru	speak
腹	hara	stomach
詰める	tsumeru	stuff (v.)
発酵する	hakkō suru	ferment
勘弁する	kanben suru	forgive/excuse
握る	nigiru	grasp/press in hand
休日	kyūjitsu	day off
しっかり	shikkari	well/carefully
選ぶ	erabu	choose
飛び出す	tobidasu	leap out
勘定	kanjō	bill/charge (n.)
気軽な	kigaru na	lighthearted/casual
高級な	kōkyū na	high class
適当に	tekito ni	at random
値段	nedan	price
平気	heiki	no concern
空振り	karaburi	whiff/strike (n.)
マグロ	maguro	tuna
イカ	ika	squid
結局	kekkyoku	finally/in the end
放り出す	hōridasu	abandon/neglect (v.)
池	ike	pond
越える	koeru	go over/go beyond
シャコ	shako	mantis shrimp
車庫	shako	garage
面白い	omoshiroi	interesting/funny
タコ	tako	octopus
転がる	korogaru	roll/tumble (v.)
崩れる	kuzureru	crumble
基本	kihon	basics/fundamentals (n.)
置く	oku	set down

## From *Manga Shorts*, p. 48

お客様	okyaku-sama	customer
きっかけ	kikkake	opportunity
寒い	samui	cold
熱い	atsui	hot
連れて来る	tsurete kuru	bring [with] (animate)
味	aji	taste (n.)
調子	chōshi	condition/situation
大将	taishō	boss (n.)
できる	dekiru	be finished/completed
女性	josei	female
意識する	ishiki suru	be conscious of
イチゴ	ichigo	strawberry
映える	haeru	glow/stand out
ふんだんに	fundan ni	abundantly/liberally
重ねる	kasaneru	stack (v.)
さらに	sara ni	in addition
かんぴょう巻き	kanpyō-maki	gourd roll (sushi)
カッパ巻き	kappa-maki	cucumber roll (sushi)
巻く	maku	wrap/roll up [in]
価格	kakaku	price
ぜったい	zettai	definitely
人気が出る	ninki ga deru	become popular
雇う	yatou	hire (v.)

商売	shōbai	trade/business (n.)
繁盛	hanjō	flourishing (n.)
自分で	jibun de	by oneself
始める	hajimeru	begin
春	haru	spring (season)
定食	teishoku	set meal
勝つ	katsu	win
おすすめ	o-susume	recommended (adj.)
勝負	shōbu	contest
おまかせ	o-makase	entrusted (adj.)
アジ	aji	mackerel
ひじき	hijiki	brown algae
煮物	nimono	simmered dish
栄養ある	eiyo aru	nutritious
文句	monku	complaint
たしかに	tashika ni	certainly

## From *Kochira*, p. 73

電子	denshi	electronic
パソコン	pasokon	personal computer
液晶モニター	ekishō monitā	LCD monitor
画面	gamen	screen (n.)
専用	sen'yō	exclusive use
手帳	techō	[pocket] notebook
会話	kaiwa	conversation
地下鉄	chikatetsu	subway
高速道路	kōsoku dōro	toll road
携帯電話	keitai denwa	portable phone
名刺	meishi	business card
通信	tsūshin	communication
地図	chizu	map
持ち主	mochinushi	owner
登録する	tōroku suru	register (v.)
しまる	shimaru	[something] tightens
リモコン	rimokon	remote control
離れる	hanareru	[something] separates (v.)
募集する	boshū suru	recruit (v.)
ランドセル	randoseru	backpack (n.)
機能	kinō	feature (n.)
発信機	hasshinki	transmitter
警報	keihō	warning signal
やばい	yabai	bad/troublesome
逃げる	nigeru	flee
正確	seikaku	precise
映画	eiga	movie
勝手に	katte ni	on own/without asking
さぼる	saboru	goof off
薬	kusuri	medicine
給料	kyūryō	salary
壊す	kowasu	break (v.)
機密	kimitsu	secret/classified data
保護	hogo	protection
爆破する	bakuha suru	blow up
爆発	bakuhatsu	explosion
秒	byō	seconds
装置	sōchi	device
大事	daiji	valuable/precious

The Vocabulary Summary is taken from material appearing in this issue of Mangajin. It's not always possible to give the complete range of meanings for a word in this limited space, so our "definitions" are based on the usage of the word in a particular story.